3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

Match comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

JETS COMICS

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5

羽海野チカ

白泉社

4315

ISBN978-4-592-14515-8

C9979 ¥486E

雑誌 44327-19

定価 本体486円+税

白泉社

川本3姉妹、二海堂、島田八段、林田先生…
周りの人の温かさに少しずつ心溶かされ、
学校生活と、棋士生活の両面で前を向き始める零。
そんな中、明るいひなたの心に
影しみとす出来事が…。
悲しみと悔しさと強さを宿すひなたの涙と顔に、
零はある驚いをだてる。
様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく
優しい物語です。

（二月末日発売）

message

「著者（chica）近影」

羽海野チカ

Chica Umino

「てんむら」は、ぼく（ダンちゃん）です。
5かんまとんでいてあまりおとうとでいません。
ぼく、さいわら、ちゃーんとゃーりをはねはっているので、
てれかもゃーりをとろろいおおかいしまう。
ぼく、がんばりまっ！ハつもゃーりをありがとございまっ！
ダンより。

ヤングアニマル ANIMAL
毎月第1・第4木曜日発売

ヤングアニマル嵐 ARASHI
毎月第2・第4木曜日発売

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僕は君に約束する

誓いの第5巻

羽海野先生描き下ろし「3月のライオン5巻前カバー」付!!

このコミックスの続きが本日11月26日発売のヤングアニマル23号で読める!!

3月のライオン
公式ホームページ&
ツイッターがオープン!!
公式HP▶http://illon.younganimal.com/
公式ツイッター▶http://twitter.com/3_lion/

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学校生活、棋士生活の両面で前を向き始める零。
そんな中、明るいひなたの心に
影しみす出来事が…。
悲しみと悔しさと強さを繊細すぎる優しさの
零はある人間が、何かを取り戻していて…
優しい物語です。

(二〇一五年一月刊行)

この本紹介

主人公・桐山零は17歳のプロ将棋の棋士。幼い頃、事故で家族を失い、引き取られた義理の家族とも将棋に対する中途半端さを悩み続ける日々を過ごしていた。そんな零が高校二年目の春に出会った川本家の3姉妹と関わることで、零の心は少しずつ溶け始めて……。

今日も空の下、君の心のどこかが晴れますように…シンプルストーリーです。

気になるネタバレ感想はこちら

その場で試し読み!!
QRコードで簡単アクセス!

面白そうだから、ちょっと中身を見てみたい!!
そんなキミはケータイからQRコードでアクセス!
「3月のライオン」の出だしが無料で読めちゃいます!

ヤングアニマル ANIMAL
毎月第2・第4の木曜日発売
ヤングアニマル嵐 ARASHI
毎月第1・第3の木曜日発売

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message

「著者(ママ)近影」

羽海野チカ
Chica Umino

「てんせいは、ぼく(ノンちゃん)ぐす。
5かんをとんでくれてありがとうございます。
ぼく、さいわち、ちゃーんとゃーれるはついりのて、
くれからもゃーをとろいりをおがいしまう。
ぼく、おんがとすりついてゃーをありがとございまう
ノンより。

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

3月のライオン

羽海野チカ

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5

3月のライオン

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羽海野チカ

白泉社

あかり、ひなた、モモは3姉妹。
三月町に住む川本家は、つつましくも温かく暮らしている。
祖父の経営する和菓子屋「三月月堂」を手伝い、
自分の将来の目標を見つけるひなた。
しかし、そんな明るいひなたの心を悩ませる事件が…。
様々な人間が、何かを取り戻していく優しい物語です。

（平成22年11月刊行）

March comes in like a lion
Chica Umino

3月のライオン 5 羽海野チカ

3月のライオン

5

羽海野チカ

March comes in like a lion

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3月のライオン

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羽海野チカ

将棋監修●先崎学八段

5

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この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物 団体 事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

Chapter 43

When Cherry Blossoms Bloom

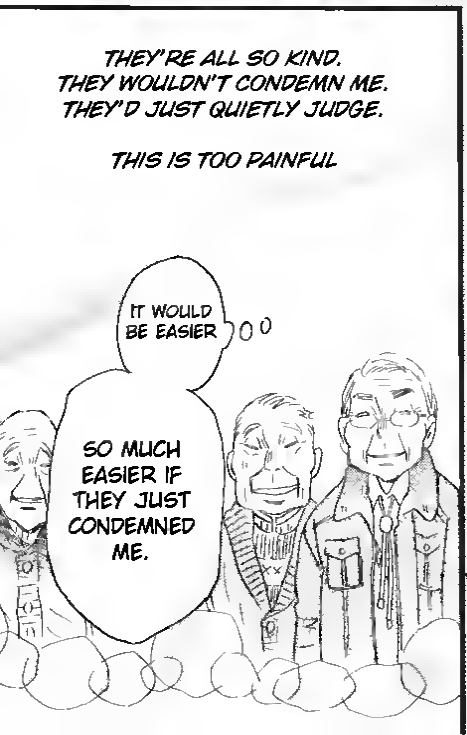
THE WEATHER'S SO NICE
THE PINK OF THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS, THE BLUE SKY AND THE WHITE CLOUDS...
EATING RICE BALLS UNDER CHERRY TREES IS ESPECIALLY NICE.
I WANT MORE RICE BALLS!
SURE, SURE. HAVE AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.
YOU'RE THE BEST!
LET ME HAVE SOME MORE FRIED CHICKEN TOO!

IT'S GOTTEN LESS CROWDED, AND WE CAN REALLY ENJOY EVERYTHING.
BUT I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU LIKED IT.
MOST OF IT IS GONE ALREADY,
I WONDER IF REI MADE IT BACK YET, Y'KNOW, KIRIYAMA?
YES, IT'S PROBABLY ABOUT TIME TO WATCH RIGHT NOW.
PLAYING SHOGI WITH REAL PEOPLE, SEEMS REFINED.
ISN'T THAT WHERE THEY GO TO A WIDE OPEN SPACE DRESSED IN ARMOR AND KIMONOS?
IT MUST BE BEAUTIFUL UNDER THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN BLOOM, BRILLIANT BLUE SKY, GREEN MOUNTAINS IN THE DISTANCE, HOW LOVELY.
grin
nod
IT'S SO LOVELY AND ROMANTIC.
Haaa...

Shhhhhhhhhhh
drip
drop
drip
JR 天童
TENDO STATION
天童
てんどう
Tendō
Midaregawa
DAMN YOU
Stt Stt Stt
I CAN'T FACE EVERY-ONE LIKE THIS...
Stt Stt Stt
BRINGING ME BACK HERE, HOME AFTER A STRAIGHT LOSS IN THE SHISHIOU TOURNAMENT..
I'M THE KIND OF MAN WHO BRINGS RAIN WHEREVER HE GOES.
I SHOULDN'T GO TO ANYTHING HELD OUTDOORS...
I TOLD YOU,
.....
gloom
CHAIR MAN
I GUESS "CONGRATULATE" ISN'T THE WORD TO USE IN THIS SITUATION IS IT?
YOU'RE A DEMON!!
haha haha
WHOOPS
Just pop in, kay?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT KID!
GO HOME AND LET EVERYONE CONGRATULATE YOU.

sssshhh
YUP, GOT IT.
YEAH I'M NOT SUPRISED THEY CANCELLED IT. MOVED TO CITY HALL? OK.
OKAY
YUP.
WE JUST MADE IT TO TENDOU STATION.
OH, HEY NIKAIDO.
OH, HELLO?
RRRRR
GOT YOUR STUFF? LET'S GO!
North Exit
THEY'LL BE THERE, OH YEAH
EVEN IN THE RAIN THEY'LL BE THERE
AND PEOPLE COME FROM THE NEIGHBORING PREFECTURES ..
THEY DO THIS EVERY YEAR,
IS THIS REALLY A STOP ON THE SHINKANSEN LINE?
I WAS GETTING CONCERNED.
IT'S FOR THE BEST, THOUGH NOBODY SHOWED UP FOR HUMAN SHOGI TODAY,
thump
thump
ssssshhh
uninhabited...
THIS IS WAY TOO OMINOUS!
The path God has laid for me
Where does this path lead?
No return
No return
Because I'm afraid to go back home
I guess I'd better go
Argh!
WHY IS THIS SAD SONG RESOUNDING THROUGH THE EMPTY STATION?
WAAAH WHAT IS THIS?
WHY DID THEY GO WITH THAT SONG?

Where does this path lead?
NO return (loop)
OH GOD...
IS THIS THE WAY?
I WANT TO ESCAPE THIS PLACE
No return
W-WELL ANYWAY,
LET'S GO HAIL A CAB.
Tendou City - Japan Shogi Federation
Tendou: The Home of Shogi Supports Its New Grand Master!
SSSSSHHHHH
SSSHHH


THEY'RE ALL SO KIND.
THEY WOULDN'T CONDEMN ME.
THEY'D JUST QUIETLY JUDGE.
THIS IS TOO PAINFUL
IT WOULD BE EASIER
SO MUCH EASIER IF THEY JUST CONDEMNED ME.

HOW CAN I APOLOGISE FOR THIS?

DAMN IT TO HELL, KAI!!
THOUGH I SAID SO,
THEY'RE CONDEMNING ME WITHIN 5 SECONDS OF MY ARRIVAL?
LET ME HELP,
YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE THIS, SINCE YOU WERE LITTLE!
WE HAVE AN EVENT AND AS SOON AS YOU SHOW UP, IT STARTS POURING!
YOU DAMN RAIN CLOUD!
WHY'D YOU BRING YOUR RAIN CLOUDS WITH YOU?!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT!
bow
GET OUTTA THE WAY!
bow
squeek
GET THE PRODUCE INSIDE, HURRY!
hup hup
clatter
COME ON, DON'T STAND THERE, GET THE SHOGI PIECE PLAYERS SOME TOWELS!!
OKAY!
HERE, HAVE A TOWEL
THANK YOU!
OH, IT'S 6-DAN SHIMADA!
IT'S GETTING MORE POPULATED
THAT'S GOOD.
塩野クラブ
HERE, HAVE ONE OF THESE. IT'S OUR SALT FIELD CLUB'S NEW PRODUCT,
LA FRANCE WHALE MOCHI.
RECCOMENDED
Shiba Cherries
Shiba Cherries
Shiba Cherries
one log 400円
GOOD! THIS IS REALLY GOD! IT'S WONDERFUL, MA'AM!

THAT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON YOU!
OH, YOU'RE IN UNIFORM!
YOU DAMN RAIN CLOUD!
WE'RE LUCKY ANYONE IS TRYING THE NEW PRODUCT AT ALL
I'm sorry...
huff huff wheeze
HEY SHIMADA, KIRIYAMA!
IT'S LIKE YOU WERE BORN TO WEAR IT!
INDEED IT SUITS YOU QUITE WELL, SIR. YOU LOOK LIKE THE GREAT MONARCH SHINGEN OF OLD.
You look like a living boy's festival doll
You do the Haruhobu family proud sir.
WOW
NOW THEN,
WHERE'S YOUR OPPONENT YOKOMIZO
YES?
TAKAKAGE... OR HIDEAKI?
HMM, LETS SEE, KOBAYAKAWA MAYBE?
Hmm yes.
HEY! WHY DO I GET THE LACK-LUSTER RESPONSE?!

TENDOU
HUMAN SHOGI
SECOND MOVE, 5-DAN NIKAIDO
FIRST MOVE 7-DAN YOKOMIZO
baba bum
bum
baba bum
bum
PAWN 3-4
PAWN 7-6
YOU CAN'T PLAY THE GAME THE WAY THAT YOU'RE USED TO.
IN HUMAN SHOGI, THERE'S A GOAL YOU MUST MEET OF "MOVING ALL YOUR PIECES"
PEOPLE OF TENDOU, I'M SURE YOU'RE ALL WELL AWARE OF THIS, BUT,
Y-YES OF COURSE
PLEASE KEEP THIS IN MIND WHEN YOUR TURN COMES, KIRIYAMA
WHEN DID THAT SPOT BEHIND MY LANCE OPEN UP?!
OH NO!
O-OKAY, PROMOTING MY BISHOP!!
THIS IS BAD, REAL BAD
THEN,
40 MINUTES LATER
OKAY THEN, NEXT SILVER TO 6-7
WHAT?!
VERY WELL,
3-5 PAWN!
OH! LOOKS LIKE HIS OPPONENT HAS CAUGHT HIS MISTAKE!
HE'S CORNERED HIM IN ONE CAREFREE MOVE!!
WELL DONE YOUNG MASTER!!

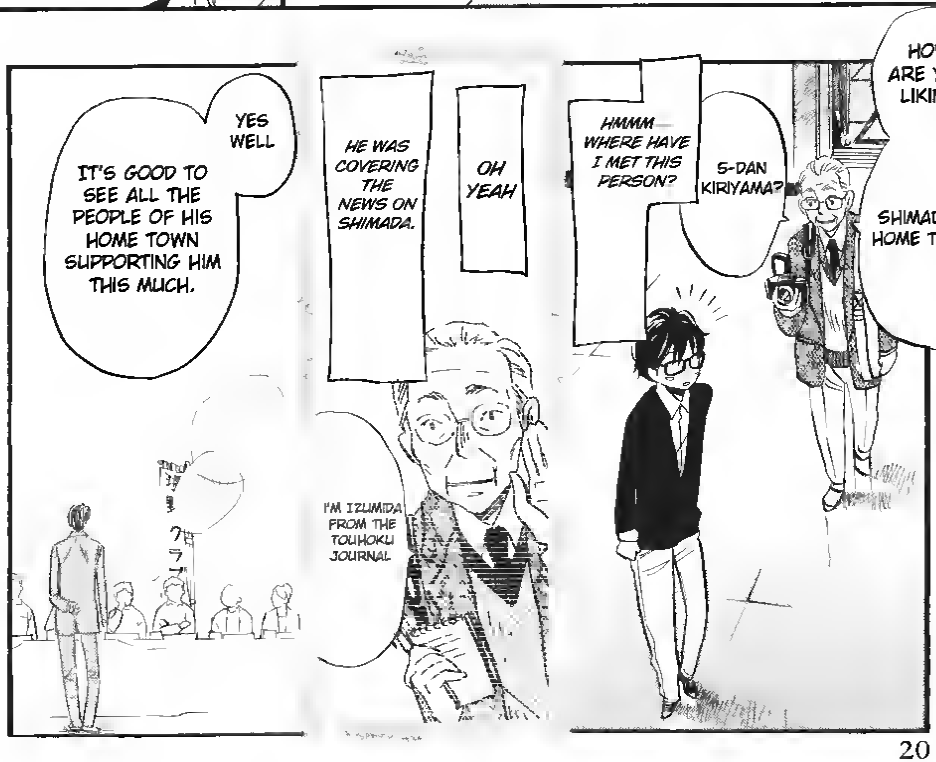
WELL DONE MASTER HARUNOBU!
Tears of joy
I'S BEEN A REAL PLEASURE TO BE HERE!
THANK YOU, I'M SO HAPPY!
THE 42ND HUMAN SHOGI GAME HAS BEEN DECIDED IN 96 MOVES. WINNER, 5-DAN NIKAIDO!
I-IVE LOST...
bada bum bum bum
clap clap
cheer
11 : 30 Opening Ceremonies
12 : 00~ Flower Petal Dance
12 : 30~ Human Shogi
15 : 00~ 100 games of shogi
17 : 30~ Closing Ceremonies
19 : 00~ Event over
NOW THEN
NEXT ON THE PROGRAM IS THE 100 GAMES OF SHOGI
THAT'LL BE ME, THE CHAIRMAN, NIKAIDO, AND OKUYASU.
IT'S YOKOMIZO!
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!
COME JOIN US FOR A REPRIEVE MR. KOBAYAKAW- I MEAN MR. YOKOMIZO.
WONDERFUL WORK TODAY YOU TWO.
SHIMADA!
gleam
LEAVE IT TO ME, DIDN'T YOU JUST GET HERE? WHAT'S GOING ON?
HUH?
I'LL LEAVE THIS ONE TO YOU!
KIRI-YAMA!
clap
CHAIRMAN, IT'S YOUR NAME ON THE PROGRAM, THERE'S NO RUNNING FROM THIS ONE.
I OVERHEARD YOU SAY "I'M GETTING YONEZAWA BEEF TONIGHT☆" EARLIER!
EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE YOU PLAY, YOU'RE DOING IT.
YOU'RE LYING.
Sod!
OH? BUT... MY STOMACH'S NOT FEELING VERY GOOD...
CAN'T?
Aww

I PLAYED HER FOR OVER 2 HOURS AND THE GAME WOULDN'T END.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH, RIGHT?
LIKE THAT OLD LADY THERE.
MY BEEF'S GONNA GO COLD...
ESPECIALLY THE OLD MEN AND WOMEN FROM THAT CLUB OF YOURS, SHIMADA.
yay hooray
I LEARNED MY LESSON HERE LAST YEAR,
THESE YAMAGATA FOLKS CAN TURN FIERCE IN A MOMENT
EVERYONE IN THE TOWN WAS ITCHING TO KNOCK HIM DOWN A PEG.
HELLO PEOPLE OF YAMAGATA,
LOVE ME TENDOU!
IN THE OPENING CEREMONY
HE SLIPPED THIS LINE INTO HIS INTRODUCTION:
OH YES,
I HEARD THAT TSUJII WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT THAT LAST YEAR TOO.
HE GOT BEAT PRETTY BAD.
HAHAHA
WHOOSH
hmmhm mhmm
MY NAME IS TSUJII TAKESHI
HA HA HA
YEAH, TSUJII...
WELL. FOR TSUJII
For real?
crickets.
Huh what?
THAT WAS HIS OWN FAULT.
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED?
ugh
SO WAIT, YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS AND YOU STILL SIGNED UP FOR THIS?
REMIND ME TO HIT TSUJII LATER
TSUJII ALWAYS DOES THAT STUFF IN FRONT OF BIG CROWDS
I'D ASK IF YOU WERE SERIOUS, BUT KNOWING HIM I KNOW IT'S TRUE

OKAY THEN IT'S TIME
SHOGI PLAYERS
42nd Hundred Shogi Game Hall
BEST OF LUCK TO YOU ALL!
AND NOW FOR EVERYONE'S FAVORITE. ONE HUNDRED GAMES OF SHOGI
OUR PRO SHOGI PLAYERS ARE COMING IN NOW!
HOORAY!
Hooray!
clap clap clap
Hey everyone good to see you!
haha ha
OKUYASU, YOU GO TAKE ON THE SALT FIELD CLUB
NO WAY! THEY BEAT YOU LAST TIME, CHAIRMAN!
AH GEEZ
Here we go.
nudge nudge
kick
kick
Harunobu!
Nikaido!
hm

OKAY
crick
HERE I GO.
OOOH! IT'S KAI!
ALRIGHT LADIES AND GENTS. DON'T GO EASY ON ME!
塩野クラ
塩野ク
oh my hehe
spin whirl
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR, THERE'LL BE NO DINNER FOR YOU TONIGHT!
EH? LET HIM EAT, IT'S BEEN SO LONG, LET'S HAVE HIM OVER TO JOIN US!
ha ha ha
OH YOU GUYS

Ha ha ha
塩野クラブ
ha ha ha
Oh! Now I see
ho ho

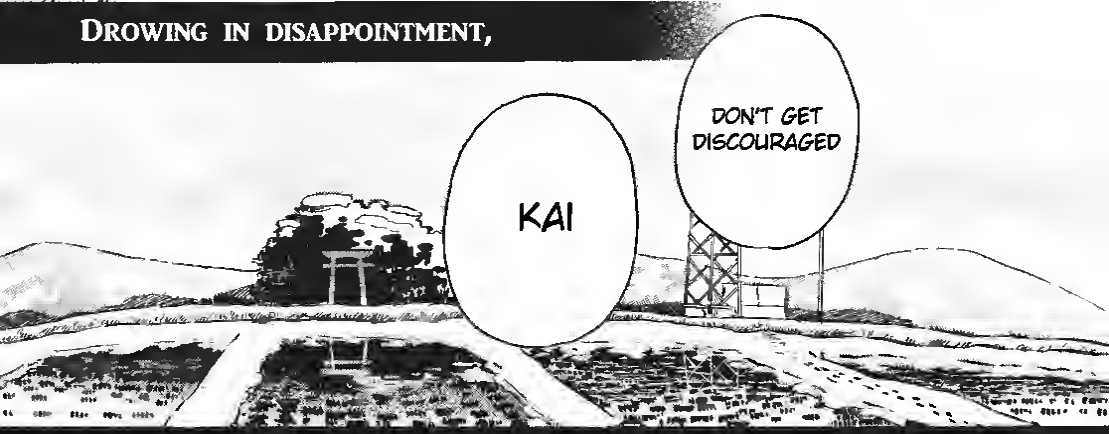

HOW ARE YOU LIKING SHIMADA'S HOME TOWN
5-DAN KIRIYAMA?
HMMM— WHERE HAVE I MET THIS PERSON?
I'M IZUMIDA FROM THE TOUHOKU JOURNAL
OH YEAH
HE WAS COVERING THE NEWS ON SHIMADA.
YES WELL
IT'S GOOD TO SEE ALL THE PEOPLE OF HIS HOME TOWN SUPPORTING HIM THIS MUCH.

TO EASE THE PAIN IN HIS HEART HE CREATED
THE SALT FIELD SHOGI CLUB.
塩野ウラブ
THE DEPOPULATION GETS WORSE EACH YEAR. IT'S AN ISOLATED TOWN FULL OF OLDER PEOPLE. IN THE WINTER, IT GETS VERY ISOLATED.
WINTER IS VERY HARD THERE.
SHIMADA'S ORIGINALLY FROM AN EVEN MORE
RURAL PART OF YAMAGATA.
.....
THEY'D PLAY SHOGI WHILE ENJOYING PRESERVED FOODS IN A BIG POT TOGETHER.
THEY'D GO TO THE TOWN HALL AND PLAY SHOGI UNDER THE KOTATSU.
HE WOULD TAKE A BUS AROUND TO ALL THE OLD FOLKS' HOMES TWICE A WEEK
AND ON, THE WAY HOME HE'D PROVIDE THEM WITH THE GROCERIES THE DIFFERENT MEMBERS HAD ORDERED.

SHIMADA BROUGHT THE PEOPLE OF HIS VILLAGE TOGETHER
AND PULLED THEM ALL OUT OF ISOLATION.
THE PRESERVED FOODS AND SWEETS
USED TO BE SOLD ON THE ROAD TO THE STATION WHOLESALE BY SHIMADA HIMSELF.
MADE BY HIS SALT FIELD CLUB,
HIS ABILITY TO BRING LIFE BACK TO THESE OLD FOLKS IS WHAT'S MOST AMAZING ABOUT HIM.
CHERRIES SOAKED IN SHIBA? THAT'S A CUTE IDEA
THESE WILL SELL AS SOUVENIERS, I BET.
OH MY, IF THEY SELL I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU, KAI.
OH MY! I'M SORRY, I STARTED TALKING YOUR EAR OFF WITHOUT REALIZING IT!
NO THAT'S FINE, I ENJOYED LISTENING.
shiba cherries
cherries
THIS WHOLE TIME SHIMADA HAS BEEN AGONIZING ABOUT
HOW TO APLOLOGISE TO EVERYONE HERE ABOUT LOSING THE SHISHIOU TOURNAMENT.
BUT NOW,
SEEING HIM SMILING LIKE THIS,
IT JUST
MAKES ME REALLY GLAD
TO SEE HIM THIS HAPPY.
I can't really phrase it well.

IZUMIDA LOOKED SO RELIEVED SAYING THAT WITH A SMILE.
REALLY
I SEE.
I KNOW!
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN.
AND HE'S CHARMED THE PANTS OFF OF ME.
REALLY? I'M SO GLAD
I'VE BEEN COVERING THIS GUY
IT JUST LEFT ME FEELING REALLY CONTENTED.
SO
AS IF IT WAS HAPPENING TO ME
IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY TOO.
WAH COME ON YOU GUYS
I CAN'T POSSIBLY TAKE ALL THIS!
THEY GET REALLY SWEET.
IF YOU FREEZE THE PERSIM-MONS
WINTER VEGGIES, AND KUJIRA MOCHI
HERE, TAKE THIS
THERE'S SOME RICE BALLS WITH MISO

DROWING IN DISAPPOINTMENT,



IT'S ALRIGHT TO RETURN HOME AS MANY TIMES AS I NEED

WHEN I'M AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO.

I WON'T LET THAT FEELING

DISAPPEAR FROM MY HEART

Chapter 43 END

Chapter 44

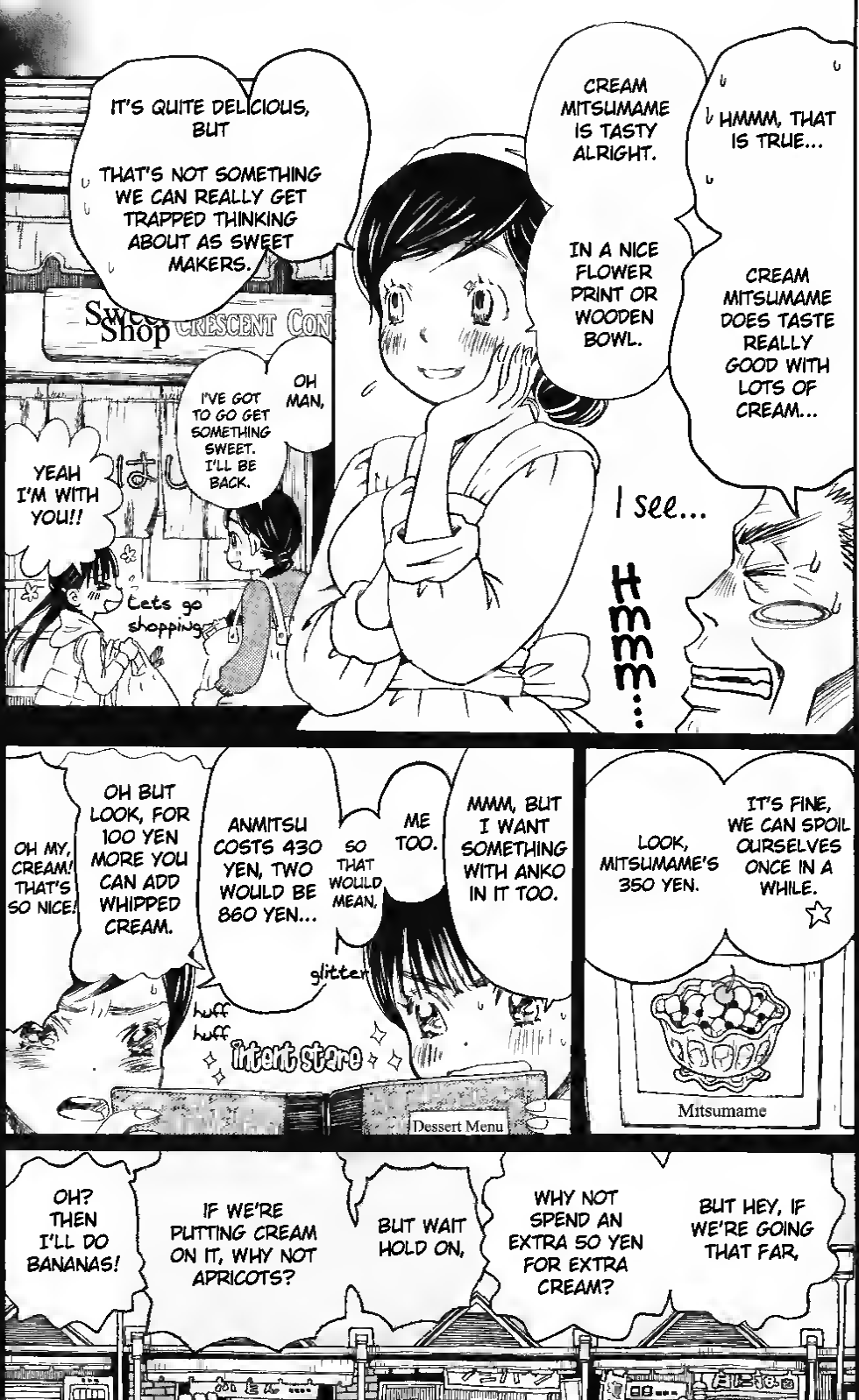
Tiny Murmur

HMMM
WHAT SHOULD WE DO HERE?
CRESCENT CONFECTIONS

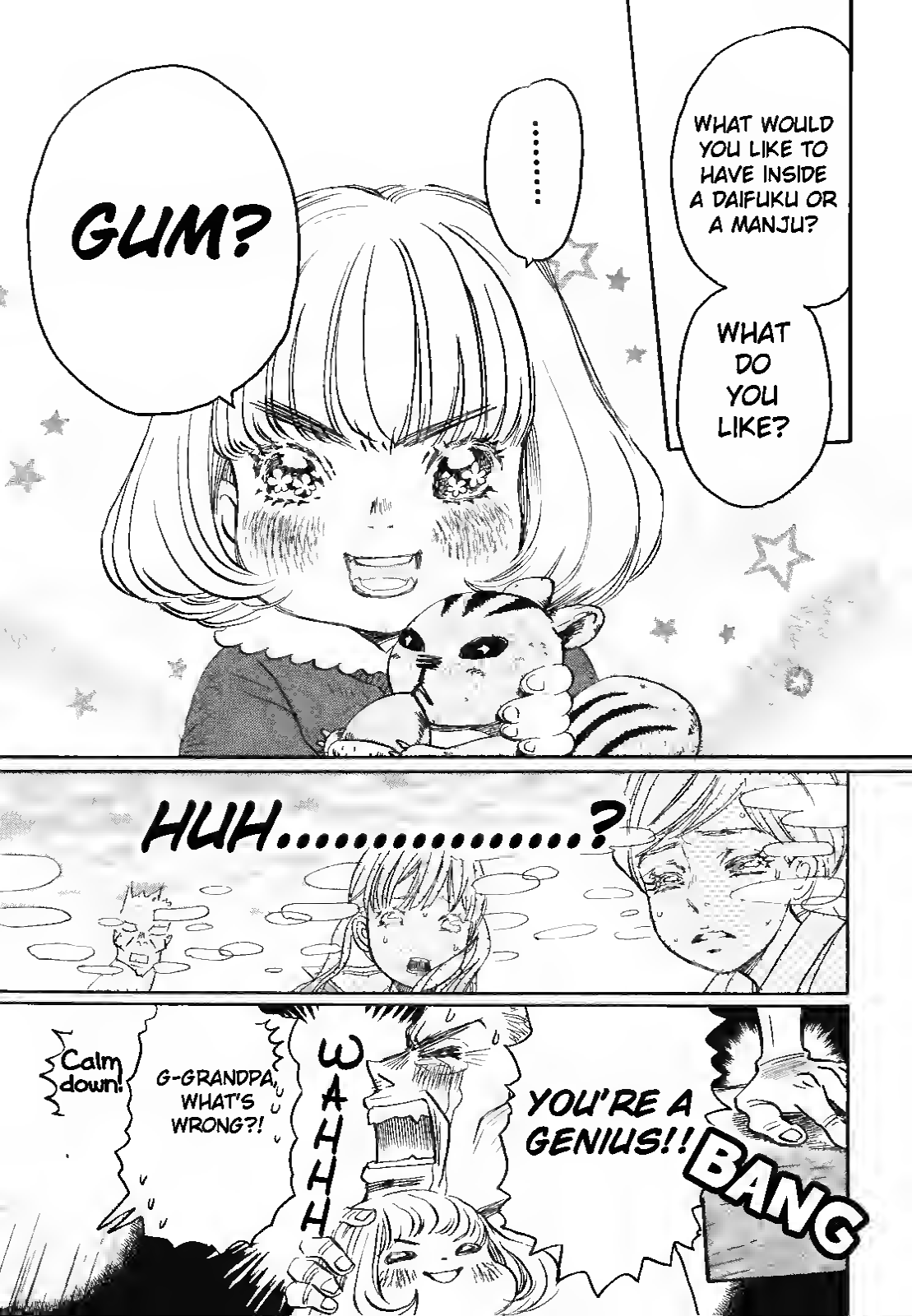
YOU LOOK TROUBLED GRANDPA.
WORKING ON A NEW PRODUCT
GRANDPA?
YEAH.
I'M TRYING TO SORT OUT WHAT TO MAKE FOR THE SUMMER LINEUP.
WHAT TO MAKE...
NOTHING'S REALLY COMING TO ME.

LAST YEAR THE "BAKED CRESCENT" WAS VERY POPULAR
IF WE COULD MAKE SOMETHING THAT POPULAR AGAIN...
CRESCENT CONFECTIONS
I WANT SOMETHING WE CAN SHOW OFF AS A SHOWPIECE IF POSSIBLE.
ANOTHER BIG HIT...
Hmmm
FOR IT TO BE THAT SUCCESSFUL,
IT NEEDS TO BE SOMETHING PEOPLE WILL REALLY REMEMBER...
IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING YOU CAN GIVE AS A GIFT, SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY HOLIDAYS. SO SHOULD WE DO SOMETHING BAKED?
HUH? HOLD ON!
SHELF LIFE IS IMPORTANT, BAKED GOODS LIKE BAKED CRESCENT DON'T LAST VERY LONG!
SOME THING RAW-ISH WOULD BE GOOD.
LIKE STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU, IT DOESN'T LAST VERY LONG, BUT THAT'S REALLY POPULAR RIGHT NOW.
STRAW-BERRY DAIFUKU, HUH...?
THAT ONE DID SUPRISE ME
HMM
IT WAS A DELICIOUS IDEA, IT REALLY CAUGHT ON.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
WELL THEN, GIRLS, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BITE INTO?
SOMETHING "UNEXPECTED" ON THE INSIDE THAT CREATES A NEW FLAVOR WOULD BE GOOD.
I SEE, SOMETHING LIKE A STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU.
UM, APPLES, OH AND WHIPPED CREAM!
CRESCENT CONFECTIONS
KIDS THESE DAYS DON'T APPRECIATE JAPANESE TREATS ANY MORE.
YOU KNOW JAPANESE SWEETS DON'T USE CREAM, RIGHT?
WHIPPED CREAM...
WHIPPED CREAM...
I MEAN, NOW THERE'S CREAM MITSUMAME, AND CREAM ZENZAI, RIGHT?
BUT COME ON! RED BEAN PASTE AND WHIPPED CREAM TASTE REALLY GOOD TOGETHER, DON'T THEY?
ugh...
THAT'S A DIRTY WORD.
SORRY, BUT FOR YOUR GRANDPA,

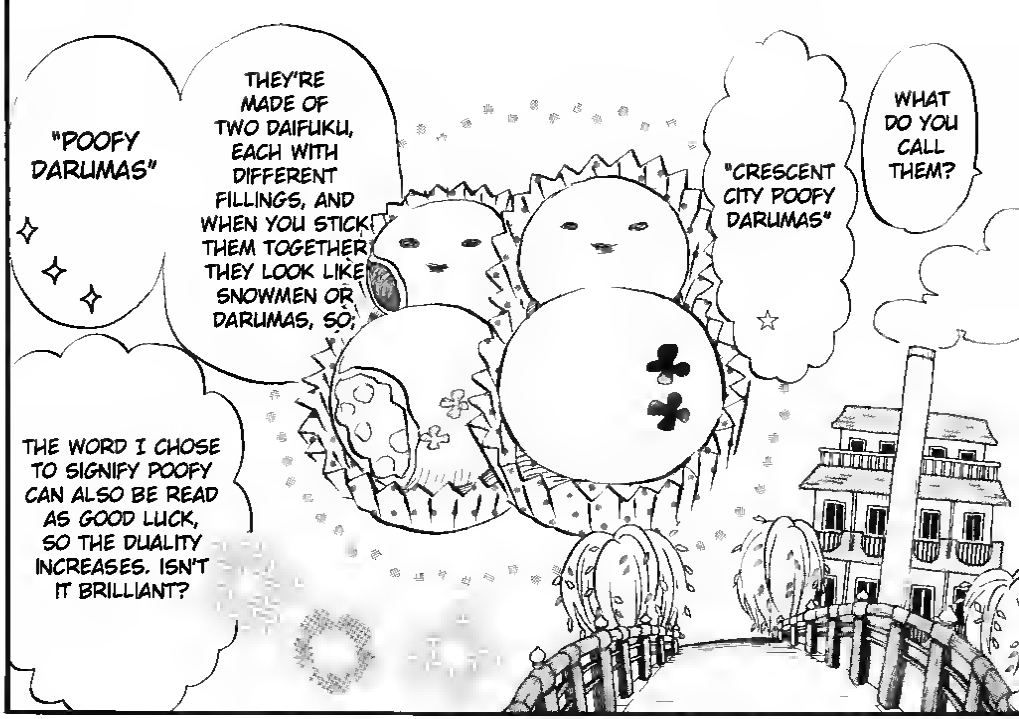

IT'S QUITE DELICIOUS, BUT
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING WE CAN REALLY GET TRAPPED THINKING ABOUT AS SWEET MAKERS.
Shop
CRESCENT CON
OH MAN,
I'VE GOT TO GO GET SOMETHING SWEET. I'LL BE BACK.
YEAH I'M WITH YOU!!
Lets go shopping
CREAM MITSUMAME IS TASTY ALRIGHT.
IN A NICE FLOWER PRINT OR WOODEN BOWL.
HMMM, THAT IS TRUE...
CREAM MITSUMAME DOES TASTE REALLY GOOD WITH LOTS OF CREAM...
I see...
mmm...
OH MY, CREAM! THAT'S SO NICE!
OH BUT LOOK, FOR 100 YEN MORE YOU CAN ADD WHIPPED CREAM.
ANMITSU COSTS 430 YEN, TWO WOULD BE 860 YEN...
SO THAT WOULD MEAN,
ME TOO.
MMM, BUT I WANT SOMETHING WITH ANKO IN IT TOO.
glitter
huff huff
Intent stare
Dessert Menu
LOOK, MITSUMAME'S 350 YEN.
IT'S FINE, WE CAN SPOIL OURSELVES ONCE IN A WHILE.
Mitsumame
OH? THEN I'LL DO BANANAS!
IF WE'RE PUTTING CREAM ON IT, WHY NOT APRICOTS?
BUT WAIT HOLD ON,
WHY NOT SPEND AN EXTRA 50 YEN FOR EXTRA CREAM?
BUT HEY, IF WE'RE GOING THAT FAR,

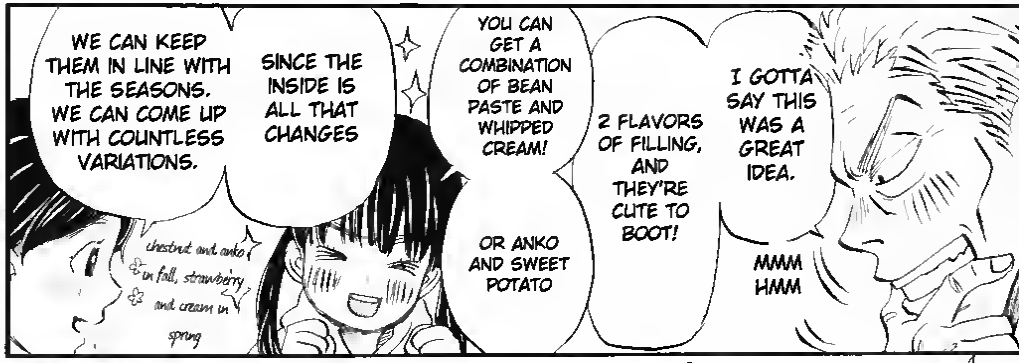
MITSUWASHI SWEET SHO
COME AGAIN!
OH NO...
UGH
HOBBLE
EMPTY
IN THE END
With Everything On It
Ta daaa!
matcha
anko
ice cream
banana
whipped
apricots
whipped
anko
FULLY LOADED
TOTAL COMES TO 1610 YEN
I COULD FEED THE FAMILY FOR 5 DAYS WITH 2.3 KILOS OF CHICKEN...
I COULD HAVE BOUGHT 2.3 KILOS OF CHICKEN FOR THAT MUCH.
BUT 1610 YEN, CHICKEN'S AT 68 YEN PER 100 GRAMS
I WORK SO HARD TO SAVE MONEY TOO.
I ALWAYS SAY "NOT THIS TIME" BUT IT STILL HAPPENS
I KNEW WE'D SPEND A LOT BUT, 1610 YEN...
MAN, THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS.
THINK I'LL GET FAT?
MY BELLYS SO FULL
OH YES, MOMO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO HELP ME COME UP WITH AN IDEA?
HEY, DON'T GET SAD,
BUT HEY WHAT ABOUT OUR LAST TOPIC OF CONVERSATION?
NOW I HAVE TO TIGHTEN THE BELT EVEN MORE FOR THIS MONTH...
THAT'S THE TRAP OF THE SWEET SHOP... YOUR HEAD GOES BLANK...
YOU GET FAT TOO...
BE SURE TO STAY AWAY MOMO
Whaa?!
WHERE'D YOU GO?
ghosh
ghosh
DOOM
IT'S A BAD SCENE

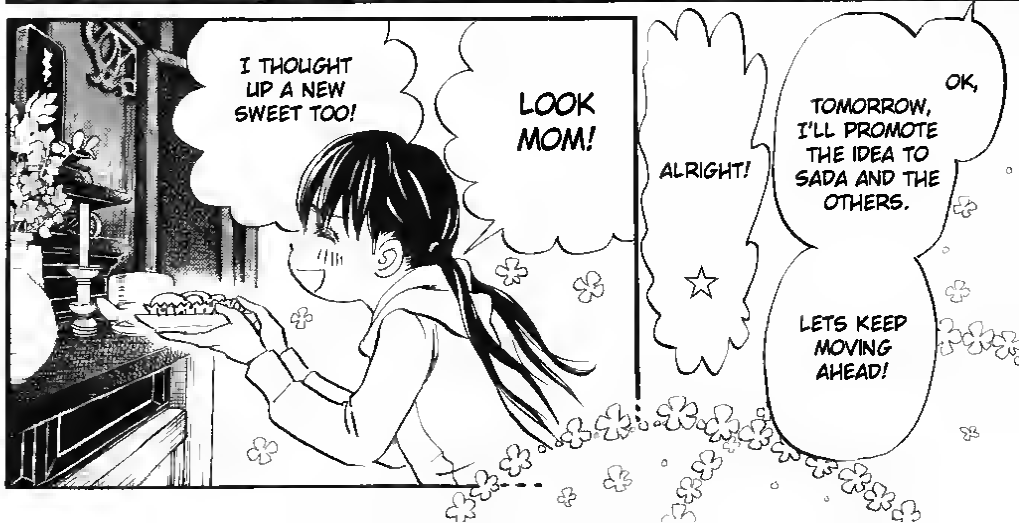

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE INSIDE A DAIFUKU OR A MANJU?
WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
.....
GUM?
HUH.....?
Calm down!
G-GRANDPA, WHAT'S WRONG?!
WAHHH
YOU'RE A GENIUS!!
BANG

LET'S THINK OF TASTY DAIFUKU FILLINGS
FIRST, THERE'S ANKO OF COURSE...
MASHED SOYBEANS
WALNUTS
MACCHA
APPLE
STRAWBERRY
F-
FINE
LET'S TRY THIS ONE MORE TIME, AND KEEP A COOL HEAD.
easy does it
SURE
OKAY, CALMLY,
UM... OK THEN!
CHESTNUTS,
SALTED CARAMEL,
SWEET POTATO
OH! AND OF COURSE WHIPPED CREAM!
HEY! WE'RE NOT GOING DOWN THAT ROAD AGAIN! STAY IN THE REALM OF JAPANESE SWEETS!
drip drip
DO YOU REALLY HATE JAPANESE SWEETS THAT MUCH?!
IF I LISTENED TO EVERY SUGGESTION YOU KIDS MADE, THIS WOULD BE A CAKE SHOP BY NOW!
I-I CAN'T HELP IT! I LOVE CREAM! I REALLY LOVE IT!

HEY!
IN LOTS OF DIFFERENT MEANINGS OF THE PHRASE...
BUT I CAN'T SETTLE ON JUST ONE THING...
HUH?
sigh
THAT'S CAUSE YOU GIRLS START LUSTING FOR EVERYTHING WE MENTION...
Bean paste
matcha cream
strawberry cream,
chestnut...
IT'S NO USE! NOTHING WILL COME OUT, NO MATTER HOW I RACK MY BRAIN!
poof poof
Pa-dum
HINA!
EUREKA, THAT'S IT!
WOW, HOW CUTE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LIKE THAT?
THEY LOOK LIKE LITTLE DARUMAS!
I knew I could do it!
phew
gasp
Meow!


WHAT DO YOU CALL THEM?
"CRESCENT CITY POOFY DARUMAS"
THEY'RE MADE OF TWO DAIFUKU, EACH WITH DIFFERENT FILLINGS, AND WHEN YOU STICK THEM TOGETHER THEY LOOK LIKE SNOWMEN OR DARUMAS, SO;
"POOFY DARUMAS"
THE WORD I CHOSE TO SIGNIFY POOFY CAN ALSO BE READ AS GOOD LUCK, SO THE DUALITY INCREASES. ISN'T IT BRILLIANT?

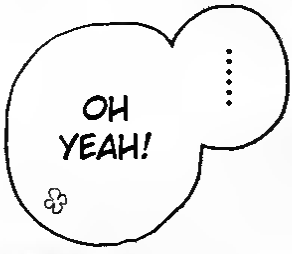

I GOTTA SAY THIS WAS A GREAT IDEA.
MMM HMM
2 FLAVORS OF FILLING, AND THEY'RE CUTE TO BOOT!
YOU CAN GET A COMBINATION OF BEAN PASTE AND WHIPPED CREAM!
OR ANKO AND SWEET POTATO
SINCE THE INSIDE IS ALL THAT CHANGES
WE CAN KEEP THEM IN LINE WITH THE SEASONS. WE CAN COME UP WITH COUNTLESS VARIATIONS.
chestnut and anko in fall, strawberry and cream in spring

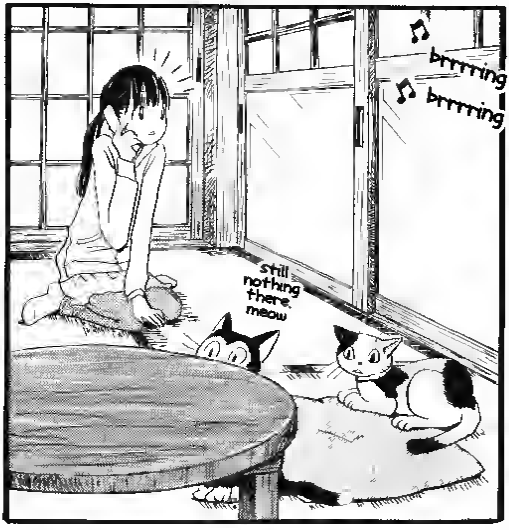

OK, TOMORROW, I'LL PROMOTE THE IDEA TO SADA AND THE OTHERS.
ALRIGHT!
LETS KEEP MOVING AHEAD!
LOOK MOM!
I THOUGHT UP A NEW SWEET TOO!

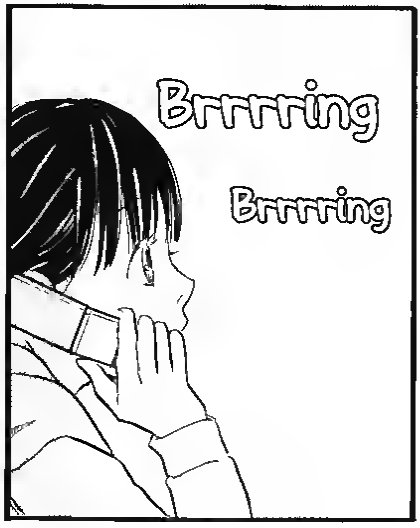
BUT
THE ONE WHO GAVE THIS PLACE ITS APPEAL AND ITS NAME, WAS MIKAKO,
YOUR MOM.
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU ON ABOUT? THE ONE WHO SLAVED OVER THIS PLACE, BUILT IT UP, EVERYTHING DOWN TO THE FINAL TOUCHES WAS ALL YOUR OLD GRANDPA!!
HEY GRANDPA,
MOM CAME UP WITH "CRESCENT CONFECTIONS" DIDN'T SHE?
chomp
GYT
meeeow!
I'm being eaten!
SHE CAME UP WITH LOTS OF IDEAS BY WATCHING AND IMITATING OTHERS.
SHE'D ALWAYS GO OFF ON HER OWN AND MAKE "TEST PRODUCTS"
AND LOVED JAPANESE SWEETS
MIKAKO LOVED COOKING
OH YEAH...?

I HOPE THESE POOFY DARUMAS ARE LIKE CRESCENT CONFECTIONS
I WANT EVERYONE TO TASTE THEM...
AND THAT THEY MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY.

OH NO,
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE TIME!!
dong
dong
I'VE GOT TO GET DINNER IN THE OVEN!
Agh!


OH YEAH!


brrrring
brrrring
still nothing there, meow

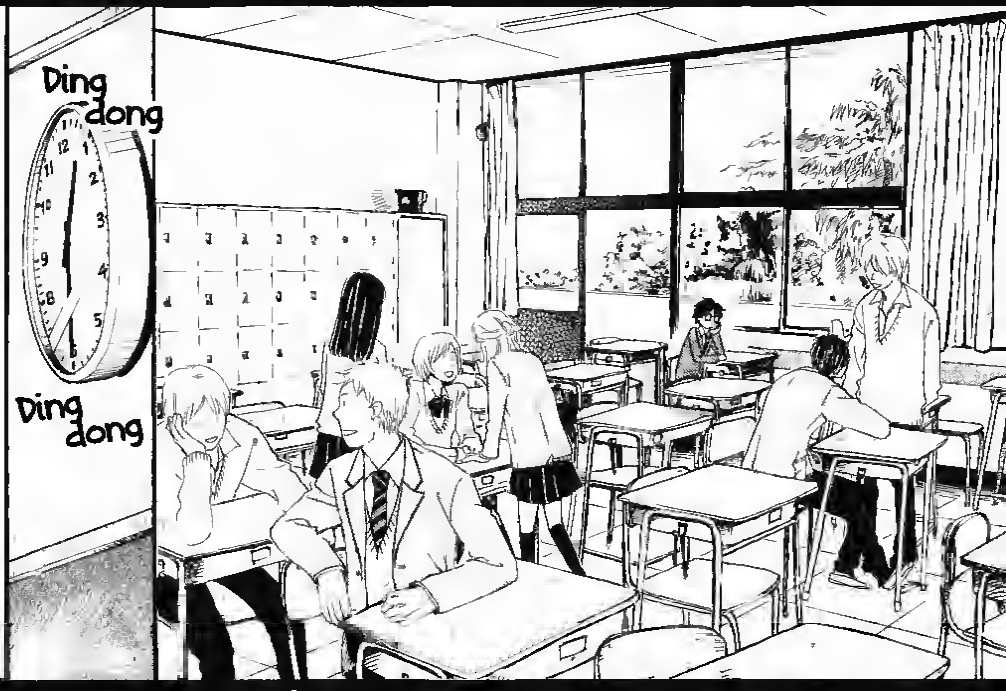

Brrrring
Brrrring

SLIDE
Brrrring
OH
UM
HELLO?
UH
Brrrring
H-
huh?
HEY, REI! HOW ARE YOU TONIGHT?
HELLO?
HELLO ?
STILL SUPRISED
UM
YES
GOOD EVENING
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US FOR DINNER?
UM
YES
GLADLY.

OH,
WHAT'S ALL THAT YOU'VE GOT?
AH, MY MENTOR GAVE THESE TO ME,
PRODUCE FROM HIS HOME TOWN IN YAMAGATA.
UM,
IN SPITE OF THE RAIN, IT WAS A GOOD TIME.
YEAH
HOW WAS HUMAN SHOGI?
OH MY, REI!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG, HOW ARE YOU?
IT'S REI!
IT MADE MY SISTER HAPPY SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO OVER THE BRIDGE TO GET PRODUCE THIS WEEK.
THAT DAY, KIRIYAMA CAME BACK FROM YAMAGATA WITH LOTS OF PRESENTS.
IT'S MORE THAN I CAN EAT. PLEASE HELP YOURSELVES.
OH THAT'S SO NICE! PLEASE BRING IT IN!
WE ALL ENJOYED THE POOFY DARUMAS I THOUGHT OF FOR DESERT.
AND RUN THE SHOP TOGETHER WITH GRANDPA.
IF I CAN, I WANT TO BE A JAPANESE CONFECTIONER
AND
THIS IS STILL A SECRET.
-HINATA
Chapter 44 END

Chapter 45
New Semester

I FIGURED IT WOULD HAPPEN BUT,



BEGINNING OF SECOND YEAR, IN MY NEW CLASS,
PROFESSOR HAYASHIDA NO LONGER TAUGHT US.

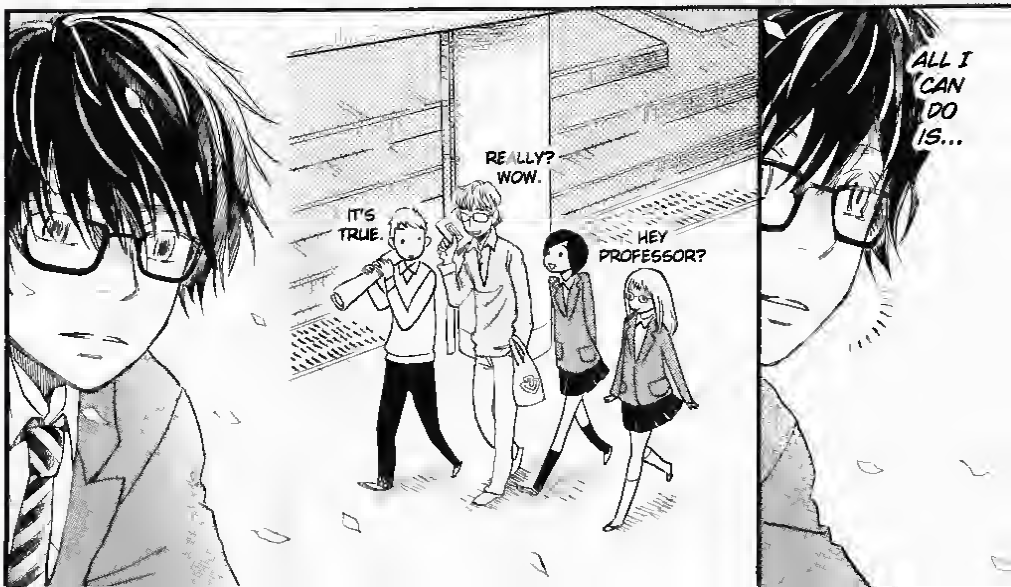
THE WORLD IS A FIELD TO PLAY ON!
THE BALL IS YOUR FRIEND!
taptaptap
I WON'T LOSE! THAT FRIED CHICKEN POTATO SALAD SANDWICH HAS MY NAME ON IT!
THEY'LL RUN OUT OF BIG GROUND MEAT SANDWICHES!!
HURRY!
DASH!!
LET'S SEE, LUNCH...
skooch...
staaaaaaaaare
I'm telling you!
No way!
snicker
droop...
sink....
I... SHOULD LEAVE.
WOW, WHO DOES THAT?
AND THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SKIPPING SCHOOL? FOR A GAME?
SHOGI IS THAT A VIDEO GAME? ARE THEY SOME KIND OF SHUT IN?
PLAYING SHOGI OR SOMETHING, I DUNNO.
OLD PEOPLE PLAY?
ISN'T SHOGI THAT THING
WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?
YOU MEAN ON PURPOSE?
HEY, IS IT TRUE THAT PERSON GAVE UP THEIR SPOT?

IT SEEMS AS SOON AS OUR CLASS CHANGED, EVERYONE'S FALLEN INTO THEIR OWN GROUPS.
AND JUMPING INTO THE MIDDLE OF AN EXISTING GROUP? I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE OR THE SKILL TO PULL THAT OFF.
HOW SHOULD I GO ABOUT IT...?
NO, NO, MORE NORMAL...
IF I CAN PULL THAT OFF...
LIKE THAT?
HEY,
MIND IF I JOIN?
HEY,
CAN I EAT WITH YOU GUYS?
WHY CAN'T I DO THIS? WHO'S EVER HEARD OF SOMEONE WHO'S EATEN ALONE FOR 11 YEARS?
DARN
IT'S NO USE
I'LL SCREW IT UP. I'M POSITIVE.
THOUGH I GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE TERRIBLE IF I KEPT EATING ALONE. THERE'S ONLY TWO MORE YEARS OF THIS AFTER ALL.
JUST 2 MORE LONELY YEARS.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I HAVE MY RANK BATTLE IN 6 MONTHS, AND NEWCOMER'S BATTLE THAT I NEED TO FOCUS ON.

NIKAIDO'S NAME DID NOT GET DRAWN AT ALL.
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, KIRIYAMA?!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO GET PICKED?!
I'M COMING OVER THERE!!!
Don't ask me!!
ONLY THE TOP TWO PLAYERS ADVANCE TO THE NEXT LEAGUE, B2.
FROM WITHIN THAT NUMBER TEN GAMES ARE ARRANGED BY LOTTERY.
FOR THE RANK BATTLE, THERE ARE 34 PLAYERS IN MY C-1 LEAGUE RIGHT NOW.
SHOGI Hall
Shogi Hall
Isn't there supposed to be a limit on bad judgement?!
HEY, ISN'T IT A BIT SOON TO BE TALKING ABOUT THE FINALS?!
B Block
A Block
Nikaido
RIGHT HERE
Kiriyama
HEY NOW!?
DON'T WAVER, KIRIYAMA!
I'M ONLY SPEAKING THE TRUTH,
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KNOCK OUT EVERYONE IN OUR PATHS TO GET TO THE FINALS!
IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT WE'RE IN SEPERATE BLOCKS.
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, THEN WE'LL HAVE TO DO THIS IN THE NEWCOMER'S BATTLE...

L-LEGEND? AND WHAT'S THIS "OUR" NONSENSE?!
OK
OH
UM
SURE WHY NOT.
wiggle
wiggle
HAS ONLY
JUST BEGUN!
OUR LEGEND,
shimmer
hehe

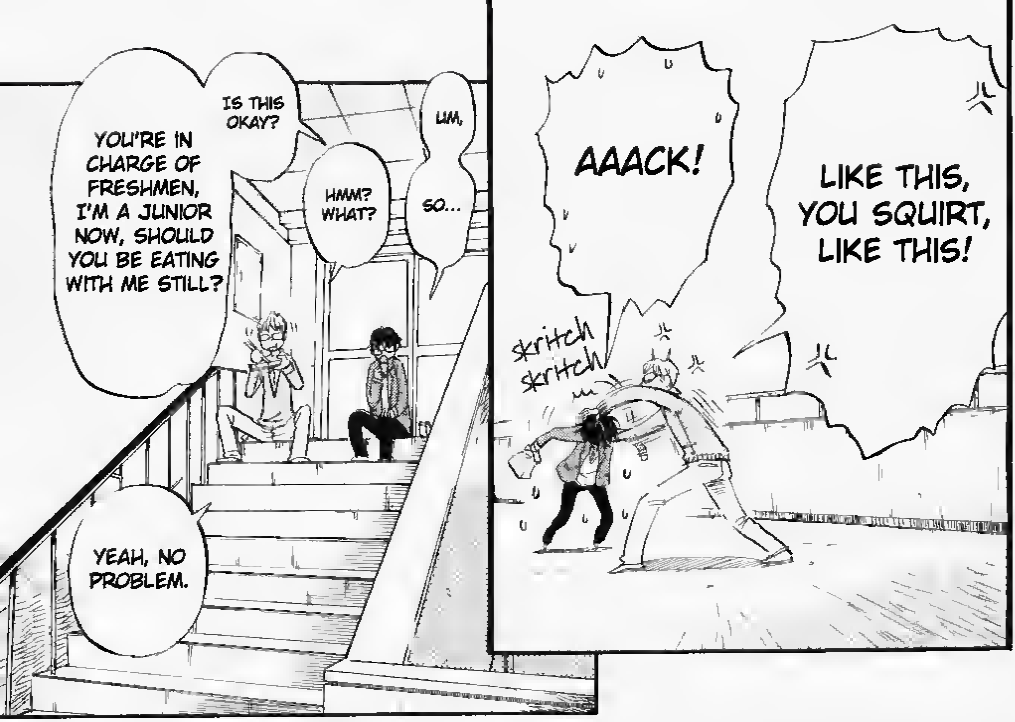
WHAT I CAN DO RIGHT NOW, IS
THROUGH THE NEWCOMER BATTLE AND THE RANKING BATTLE
YEAH, GOTTA WORK HARD.


IT'S TRUE.
RE LLY? WOW.
HEY PROFESSOR?
ALL I CAN DO IS...

nod

BY PIECE...
KEEP WORKING HARD FROM THE BEGINNING PIECE BY PIECE

thump
thump
thump
thump
WHAAAA?!
HOLD ON DAMN IT!!
HEY, KIRIYAMA!!
WHOOSH
uiiz
uiiz
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WHEN I SEE MY PUPIL MAKE A FACE LIKE THAT,
OTHER THAN RUN AFTER THEM? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT GARBAGE!
pant
pant
F-
FACE LIKE THAT?
WHAT KIND OF FACE WAS I MAKING?
KI-RI-YA-MA DAMN YOU KID!
Ack
Haaaa haaa wheeeeeze
sigh
cough cough
YOU CAN'T JUST ABANDON YOUR OTHER PUPILS LIKE THAT...
PROFESSOR ARE YOU OK?


YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF FRESHMEN, I'M A JUNIOR NOW, SHOULD YOU BE EATING WITH ME STILL?
IS THIS OKAY?
HMM? WHAT?
UM, SO...
YEAH, NO PROBLEM.
AAACK!
skritch skritch
LIKE THIS, YOU SQUIRT, LIKE THIS!

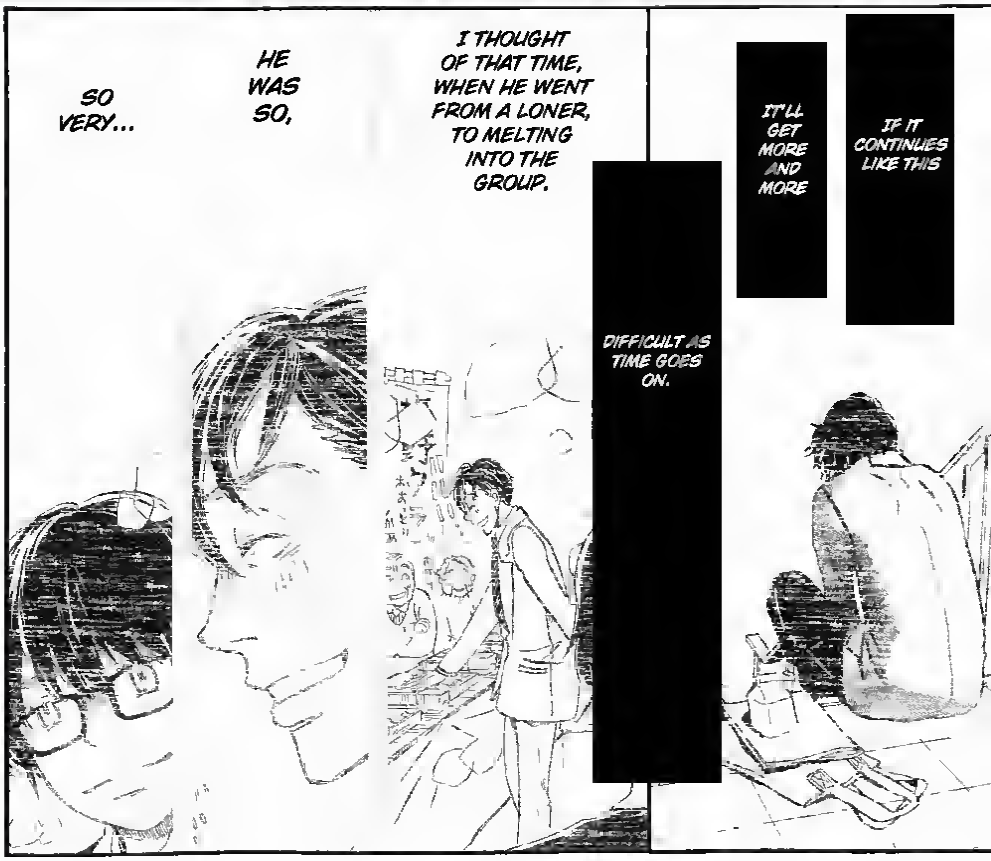
I WANT TO BE CHOSEN AT THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.
THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOUR PROFESSOR.
BUT HOW COME YOU'RE COMEING HERE AGAIN KIRIYAMA?
NEW YEAR, NEW TERM, IT'S LIKE GETTING TO START FRESH.
IF YOU'RE NOT TRYING NOW, WHEN WILL YOU?
SO REALLY, MORE THAN CONCERN FOR ME, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR OWN VALUE DROPPING IF YOU DON'T.
AND I SEE YOU HANGING OUT ALONE AGAIN WITH THAT GLOOMY LOOK ON YOUR FACE, IT SCREAMS, "PROFESSOR COME HELP ME PLEASE!" DOESN'T IT?
YOU BARELY MADE THE ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT LAST YEAR DUE TO "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES"
PROFESSOR...
munch munch

YEAH, YOUR TEACHER'S BEEN THINKING.
IT'S NOT YOUR PLACE TO ENCOURAGE ME ANYMORE
I'M TELLING YOU, PROFESSOR,
SO, KEEP DOING YOUR BEST.
YOU SHOULD MAKE A SHOGI CLUB.
TO FORM A "CLUB," YOU NEED 5 MEMBERS AND AN ADVISOR.
NO, BUT...
YOU CAN'T JUST...
IF YOU DO, I'LL BE THE CLUB ADVISOR. IT WON'T BE STRANGE FOR US TO HANG OUT THEN.
S-
SHOGI CLUB?
WAIT,
WHAT?
SO I'LL BE THE CLUB ADVISOR.
YOU JUST NEED TO FIND 4 MORE MEMBERS
NO, BUT...
FIND THEM?
JUST START LOOKING.
HOW DO I DO THAT?

Thorns
UH,
NO
IT'S NOTHING ...
"CANT JUST"
WHAT?
LOOKS LIKE HE REMEMBERED SOMETHING
Stare
Aha!
BUT I'M TELLING YOU,
I CAN'T JUST FI-
OH!

SO YOU COULD EAT ALONE IN THE STAIRWELL?
WAS IT
IN TRUTH, I ALWAYS...
KIRIYAMA,
I DON'T THINK SO.
SO,
KIRIYAMA, WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO COME BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL?

JUST HOW MUCH IT HAD BEEN WEIGHING ON ME.
IT WAS THEN I REALIZED
.....
YEAH...


SO VERY...
HE WAS SO,
I THOUGHT OF THAT TIME, WHEN HE WENT FROM A LONER, TO MELTING INTO THE GROUP.
DIFFICULT AS TIME GOES ON.
IT'LL GET MORE AND MORE
IF IT CONTINUES LIKE THIS

PROF-
ESSOR
WILL YOU REALLY BE THE ADVISOR
IF I ASK?
INCREDIBLY HAPPY
YOU BET.
SO THEN,
KIRIYAMA, YOU'LL HELP ME WITH MY GAME TOO?
HUH?
OH YEAH, SURE.
YES! I WAS WAITING FOR THAT!
FREE LESSONS FROM A PRO!
THIS TIME, I'LL BEAT THAT PLAYER NAMED 4-DAN AMA IN THE INTERNET SHOGI LOUNGE!
PROF-
ESSOR,
I REALLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BUT LET'S START SMALL...
THE NEXT DAY
N-
NO ONE...
WHY?
IS SHOGI THIS UNPOPULAR?
Everyone says "Shogi? Nah, not interested."
SORRY
NAH, IT'S NO FAULT OF YOURS.
I LOVE SHOGI!
WELL, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST.
slump
GUUSH
Bang
NOGUCHI !!
THAT'S RIGHT!
AKIL

HAHAHA, CAN'T YOU TELL? WE'RE HARVESTING (?) SOME NATTO.
W-W-WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING THIS TIME?
PROFESSOR HAYASHIDA, GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
Oh!
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR
OH GOD, IT STINKS!!
Byuuuuuun
HAHAHA! AN EXCELLENT QUESTION.
ANYWAY, WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THE STRAW?
HEY, YOU'RE EATING IT ALREADY ?!
WOW!
THAT'S GREAT NATTO!
Looks like he likes it
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR
ha ha ha
You really are like an old man.
DrulliP
WOW
THAT WAS INFORM-ATIVE!
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME?!
WELL YOU BUNDLE THE SOY BEANS IN RICE STRAW AND STEAM THE BEANS AT 40 DEGREES CELSIUS FOR A DAY AND THE BACILLUS SUBTILLIS BRINGS OUT THE STICKYNESS OF THE BEANS AND SUPPORTS THE FERMENTATION.
NO, I MEAN WHY ARE YOU FERMENTING NATTO IN SCHOOL?!
ha ha ha
NOGUCHI, DO YOU PLAY SHOGI?
OH
I FORGOT!
THE WHOLE REASON I CAME HERE!
Oh yeah!
Further-more, what does a school need to be self-sufficient for?
When would that ever be needed?
HOLD ON, WHAT'S WITH THE TITLE? AND WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WHO ARE YOU PRESENTING THIS TO?
CHING
Is a self- sustaning School Possible?
Noguchi Eisaku
IT'S FOR MY THESIS.
LAST YEAR, I GREW RICE UP ON THE ROOFTOP, AND THIS STRAW IS A PRODUCT OF THAT.

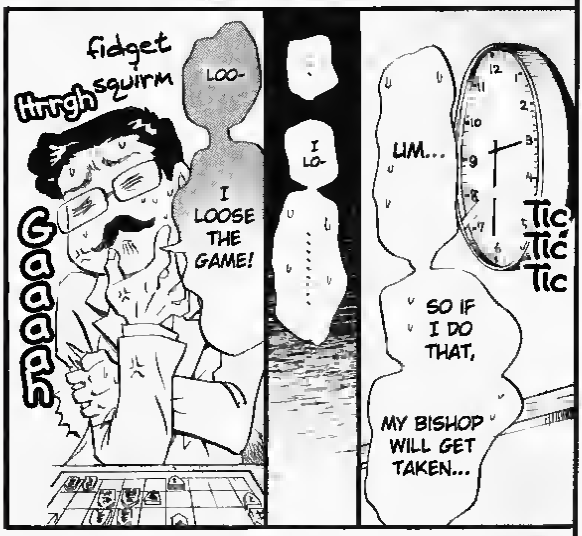
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A SHOGI CLUB AND CAN'T FIND FIVE MEMBERS FOR THE LIFE OF US!
OKAY!!
Finally there's one person!
Hahaha
IT'S A VERY COMPLICATED GAME.
SHOGI... I PLAYED IT AS A BOY WITH MY GRANDFATHER, BUT NOT MUCH.
WAIT, THOSE GUYS WERE OLDER THAN YOU?!
ALL OF THE OLDER MEMBERS HAVE GRADUATED.
sigh
MY "AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB" IS IN DANGER OF TERMINATING FOR THE SAME REASON.
HAHAHA, I'M IN THE SAME BOAT.
HUH? I THOUGHT YOU HAD LOTS OF MEMBERS.
At this rate we'll be disolved at the club review in May.
FROM THE FIRST DAY I ENTERED THE CLUB THEY CALLED ME THEIR "SENIOR" EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE UPPERCLASSMEN.
YES, THEY WERE WONDERFUL FRIENDS.
FRESHMAN
IS THIS THE AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB?
NO OUR PRESIDENT!
OUR SENIOR!
UPPERCLASSMEN
HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE...
HM??
THAT'S IT!
BUT WITH ONLY FOUR MEMBERS LEFT, WE'RE DOOMED TO FADE AWAY...
I WISH THERE WAS A WAY TO PASS THE WONDERS OF THESE SCIENCES ONTO THE YOUNGER STUDENTS...
UM, I'M NOT SURE THAT HAS MUCH TO DO WITH THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE...
If I could even leave my thesis behind...
HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

1 member
4 members
.....
WHAT IF YOU ALL JOINED EACH OTHER'S CLUBS?
AND SO THE "AFTER SCHOOL SCIENCE CLUB" AND "AFTER SCHOOL SHOGI STUDY GROUP" MERGED, FORMING THE "SHOGI SCIENCES CLUB"
OH!!
YES!!
I SEE!!
SEE? HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU "RATHER THAN WORRYING ABOUT SOMETHING, IT'S EASIER TO GET UP AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT"
THE SOLUTION WAS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.
ON THE WAY HOME,
HE SAID, GRINNING ALL THE WAY.
Chapter 45 END

Chapter 46

Western Sun

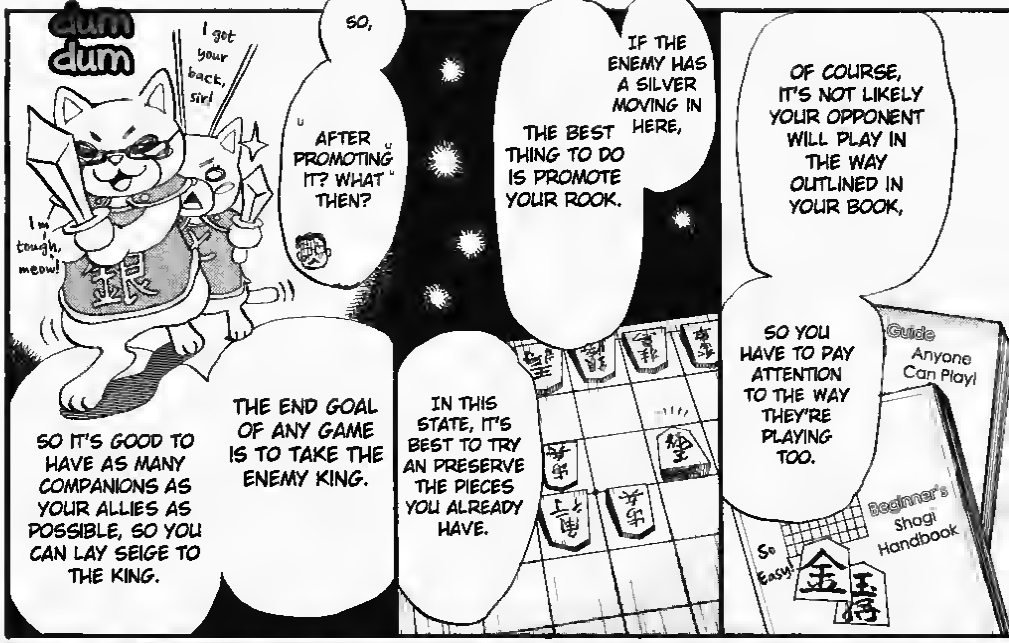
I CAN LOOK AT THE BOOK, RIGHT?
FOR ME, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
I'VE BEEN TO ANY CLUB.
"WHEN THE KING IS SURRONDED, THE GAME ENTERS ITS FINAL MOVES," EH?
Hmm hmm
GO AHEAD.



IN MAY

THE SHOGI SCIENCES CLUB BEGINS ITS MEETINGS

IN EVERYDAY LIFE, MATTERS OF VICTORY OR DEFEAT AREN'T THIS HARD FOUGHT FOR...
AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR OWN FAILURE BY DECLARING "I LOST."
BUT WHEN YOUR OPPONENT ALSO HAS A GUIDE, TELLING HIM HOW TO ATTACK...
I even prepared shogi flash cards
Uhh...
AND I WAS EVEN FOLLOWING A GUIDE, TAKING PRECAUTIONS,
I MEAN,
WHAT DO YOU DO?
If you capture three pawns, use them as a trap
Knights are good at taking pawns
Getting a pawn behind a Gold General is harder than scaling a cliff.
the more important the piece, the harder it is to hit.
BUT
EVEN IF YOU TAKE FULL PRECAUTIONS, YOU OPPONENT MAY HAVE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS TO YOUR PRECAUTIONS...
SO IF HE DOES THAT,
IS THERE EVER ANY END?!
Waaah
THEN I HAVE TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST HIS PRECAUTIONS TO MY PRECAUTIONS?
WELL NO.
THERE REALLY ISN'T.


dum dum
I get your back, sir!
I'm tough, meow!
SO,
AFTER PROMOTING IT? WHAT THEN?
IF THE ENEMY HAS A SILVER MOVING IN HERE,
THE BEST THING TO DO IS PROMOTE YOUR ROOK.
OF COURSE, IT'S NOT LIKELY YOUR OPPONENT WILL PLAY IN THE WAY OUTLINED IN YOUR BOOK,
SO YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE WAY THEY'RE PLAYING TOO.
Guide
Anyone Can Play!
Beginner's Shogi Handbook
So Easy!
SO IT'S GOOD TO HAVE AS MANY COMPANIONS AS YOUR ALLIES AS POSSIBLE, SO YOU CAN LAY SEIGE TO THE KING.
THE END GOAL OF ANY GAME IS TO TAKE THE ENEMY KING.
IN THIS STATE, IT'S BEST TO TRY AN PRESERVE THE PIECES YOU ALREADY HAVE.

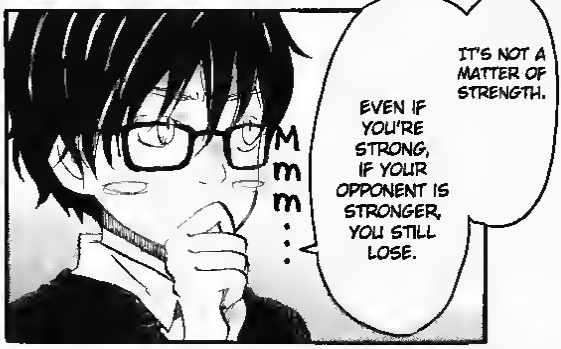
over to you!!
We will never hand the king
Give us the king!
GROWL
THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW MANY PIECES YOU HAVE,
SO BY THE SAME TOKEN IF YOU USE THEM ALL TO DEFEND, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ADVANCE EITHER.
MEOW!
SCEEEAM
SNEAK
rustle
STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE OF OFFENCE AND DEFENSE IS THE ETERNAL THEME OF SHOGI.
Stay back!
Aack
I will help out too!
HEY SILVER, GET BACK HERE, WE NEED YOU!
dash
tremble
shake
AH, YOU FIGURED THAT OUT, WELL DONE! YOU'RE RIGHT!
BUT IF I TAKE ALL MY ALLIES AND ATTACK, THAT LEAVES MY OWN HOME BASE UNDERSTAFFED!
sob
sob
SLAP

playing online
I'M GONNA LOSE AT THIS RATE!
Boss, I need you to beat this punk!
HELP ME BEAT THE TAR OUT OF THIS GUY!
eeegh
gah!
WHAT SHOULD MY NEXT MOVE BE?
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO HEAR HIM LAUGH AT ME AGAIN!
TRY THINKING OF SOMETHING ON YOUR OWN.
.....
KIRIYAMA!!
I KNOW I'VE BEEN GIVING YOU A LOT TO REMEMBER.
OH YEAH ALSO
BUT IN ADDITION TO STUDYING BOOKS, YOU CAN PLAY ONLINE NOW,
SO EVEN HOME ALONE YOU CAN ENJOY-
They'd be done right? You know that, don't you?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU CAUGHT SOMEONE CHEATING ON AN EXAM?
NO CHEATING.
You are being so stingy!
WHY ARE YOU SO COLD KIRIYAMA? AREN'T YOU A FORMER STUDENT OF MINE?!
YOU AREN'T A CHILD.
IT'S NOT REASON! THOSE ARE THE RULES.
I DON'T WANT TO LISTEN TO REASON RIGHT NOW!

COME ON, LET'S KEEP PLAYING.
LOSING IS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
YOU'RE TELLING ME I HAVE TO "PRACTICE LOOSING?"
Ugh...
YOU WON'T GET THE HANG OF IT UNLESS YOU PLAY A LOT.
NOT JUST PRACTICE LOSING,
IF YOU CAN'T GET OVER THE FRUSTRATION OF LOSS,
THEN IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO LEARN FROM IT.

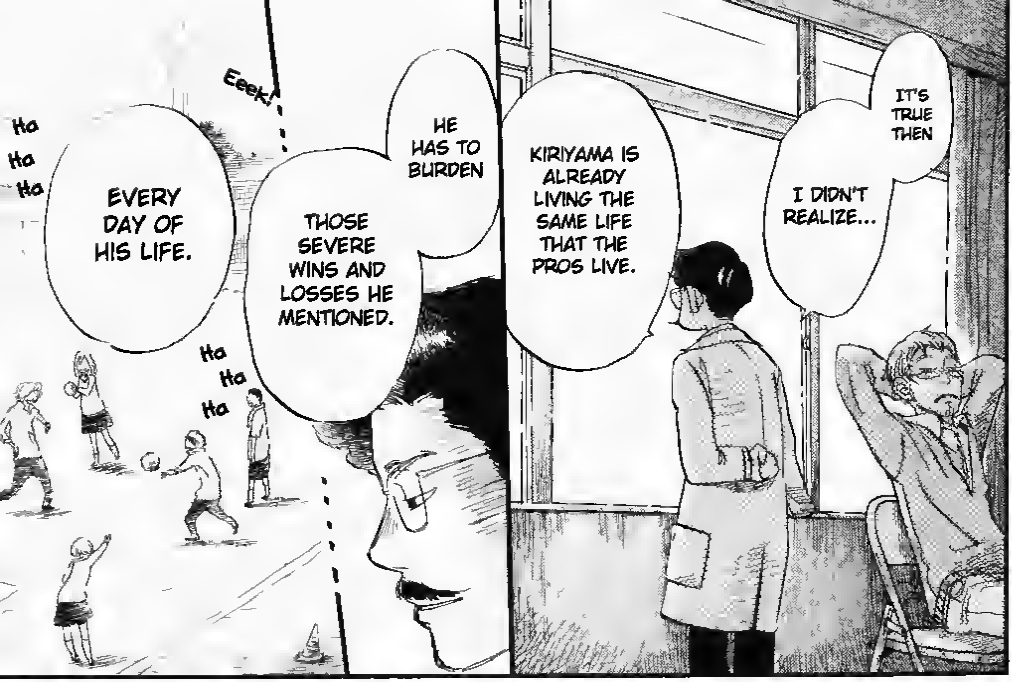
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, IT CAN FEEL SO BAD. IT'S LIKE HAVING YOUR ORGANS YANKED OUT.
You mean
It never stops?!
YES.
IT'S ALWAYS VEXING AND ALWAYS DIFFICULT.
Unless you win, of course.
Whaaat?!

HOW STRONG DO YOU HAVE TO BE BEFORE IT STOPS BEING SO DIFFICULT TO LOSE?
Question!


Mmm...
EVEN IF YOU'RE STRONG, IF YOUR OPPONENT IS STRONGER, YOU STILL LOSE.
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF STRENGTH.

NO MATTER HOW GOOD YOU GET, LOSING IS ALWAYS HARD.
TO THAT POINT, THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND PLAYING AND THE BETTER YOU GET, THE MORE A LOSS CAN HURT.
HOLD ON A MINUTE, KIRIYAMA!
STOP! Nonstop chattering
DO YOU...
EVEN LIKE PLAYING SHOGI?
Huh?
LIKE...
HUH?
20 SECONDS PASS
10 SECONDS PASS
Images in the background
5 SECONDS PASS

SPIN
rainbow ball (Mac)
Frozen
HEY NOW, KIRIYAMA,
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SOME TEA?
THIS IS BARLEY TEA MADE FROM THE WHEAT WE GREW BEHIND THE SCHOOL.
☆
YOU'RE STILL ALL ABOUT SELF-SUFFICIENCY, HUH NOGUCHI...
It's not really a school so much as a farm anymore huh?
ugh
Oh no!
There's also dandelion green tea, and coffee.
KIRIYAMA, COME BACK QUICKLY!
AH, YES, THIS TEA IS GOOD FOR CLEARING YOU OUT.
I'M GONNA GO TO THE BATHROOM FOR A MINUTE.
Hmm
woosh
wobble
Tea
gulp
gulp
gulp
THE BROADCAST OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME IS STARTING AT 4
OH!
YES,
I'LL BE BACK SOON!


IT'S TRUE THEN
I DIDN'T REALIZE...
KIRIYAMA IS ALREADY LIVING THE SAME LIFE THAT THE PROS LIVE.
HE HAS TO BURDEN
Eeek!
THOSE SEVERE WINS AND LOSSES HE MENTIONED.
Ha Ha Ha
EVERY DAY OF HIS LIFE.
Ha Ha Ha

THE CURRENT GRAND MASTER, SOYA
ONLY WINS 70% OF THE TIME.
SO OUT OF EVERY 10 GAMES, HE LOSES ABOUT 3 OF THEM.
AH YES.
I KNOW HIM.
HE'S THE ONE HOLDING 7 TITLES RIGHT NOW, ISN'T HE?
HE'LL BE PLAYING IN TODAY'S GAMES AS WELL.
YEAH, THIS WILL BE THE SECOND GAME.
THE FIRST GAME WAS A LOSS BY CHALLENGER KUMAKURA.
NO MATTER HOW STRONG YOU GET,
DEFEAT STILL STINGS.

THE 69TH SHOGI CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES: GAME TWO. TODAY MARKS THE FIRST DAY.
OH,
IT'S ON!
I WONDER WHAT THEY MUST FEEL.
SO,
WHEN SOMEBODY AS HIGH RANKING AS THIS LOOSES,
LET'S BEGIN WITH THE MORNING'S EVENTS. BOTH PLAYERS ENTERED THE HALL.
FIRST AT 8:53 AM, CHALLENGER KUMAKURA KENGO ENTERED THE HALL.
THEN AT 8:55, THE CHAMPION SOYA ENTERED.

THE SECOND GAME OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES WILL BEGIN SHORTLY.
THE GAME BEGAN AT 9:00 AM.
THE KISHOU TITLE, I MEAN.
IT'S BEEN A REALLY LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHALLENGE SOYA FOR THE TITLE.
YES WELL.
OOH SCARY
THIS SHOULD BE GOOD.
I'M ENVIOUS.
THAT LOOKS LIKE FUN.
crunch
rustle
歌舞伎
あずもう

munch
munch
I BET SOYA'S GOING TO CRUSH HIM ALL WHILE KEEPING THAT CUTE LOOK ON HIS FACE.
Ah how scary
BETTER THAN YOU,
YOU ALWAYS PLAY WITH AND RIDICULE YOUR OPPONENTS.
PARDEN ME,
YOU SERIOUSLY PLAY WITH YOUR OPPONENTS THEN.
PLAY WITH..?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I TAKE ALL MY GAMES SERIOUSLY.
HA HA HA
将棋
ONLY THE ONES WHERE YOU WIN AFTER HAVING A SERIOUS EXCHANGE
REALLY FEEL LIKE THEY MEAN ANYTHING THOUGH.
EH
THE PHYSICAL STRAIN OF IT IS TOO MUCH FOR ME NOW.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE NO SPRING CHICKENS ANYMORE.
It would kill me now
Shogi Hall
EVEN IF YOU USE ALL YOUR SKILL,
STRIKING WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT,
YOU DON'T WALK AWAY UNSCARRED.
YOU CAN BET SOMEONE THE SAME RANK IS GONNA HIT YOU JUST AS HARD IN RETURN.
THEN I BET SOYA MUST BE HAPPY,
TO HAVE KUMAKURA
AS HIS OPPONENT.
IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO WIND UP BEING THE SAME THING HAPPENING TO KUMAKURA
AS WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LAST GUY.

WHAT SOYA REALLY WANTS IS AN OPPONENT ON HIS LEVEL
SOMEONE HE CAN PLAY WITH
WITHOUT BREAKING LIKE A FLIMSY TOY.

I FOUND MYSELF WONDERING,
THESE TWO MAKE QUITE THE PICTURE,
DON'T THEY?
RIGHT NOW, SHIMADA...

IS HE WATCHING THESE TWO AS WELL?
WITH THE SETTING SUN PAINTING THE WORLD RED.
LOOKING AT HIS FACE ON A SCREEN,
ON HIS FACE.
WITH A FAINT SMILE
Chapter 46 END

Chapter 47

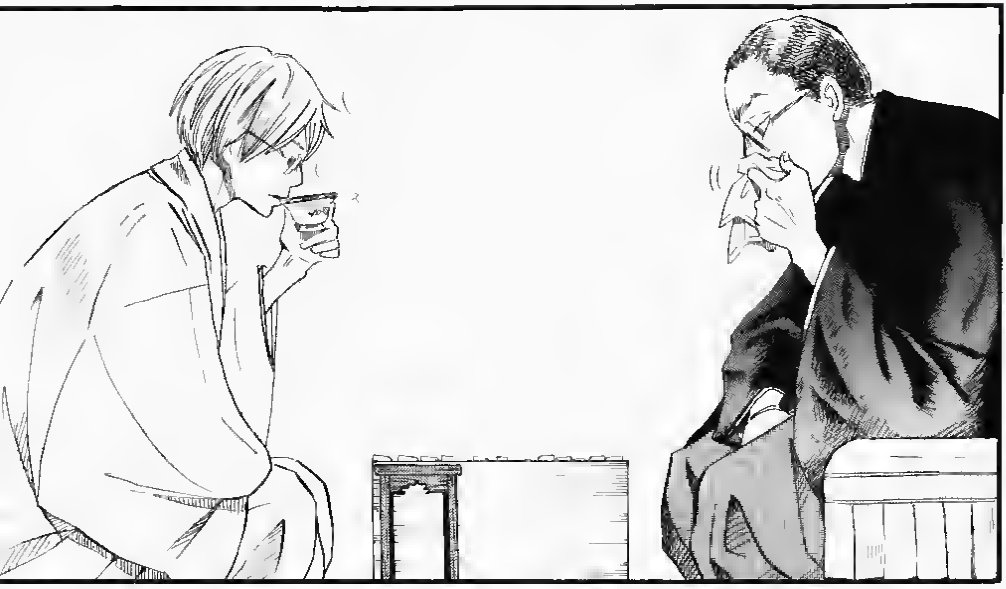
Lamune

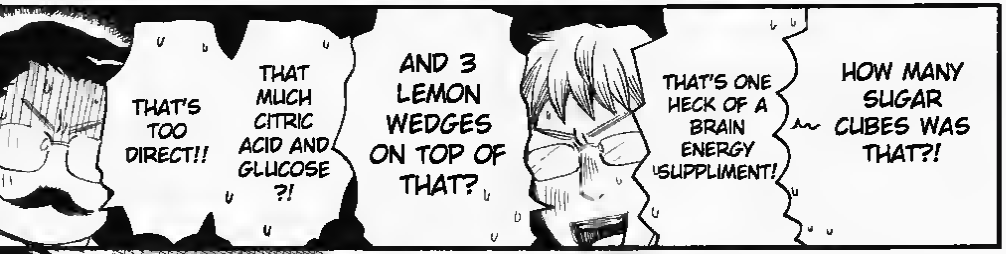
slip
NOM
Aaahh

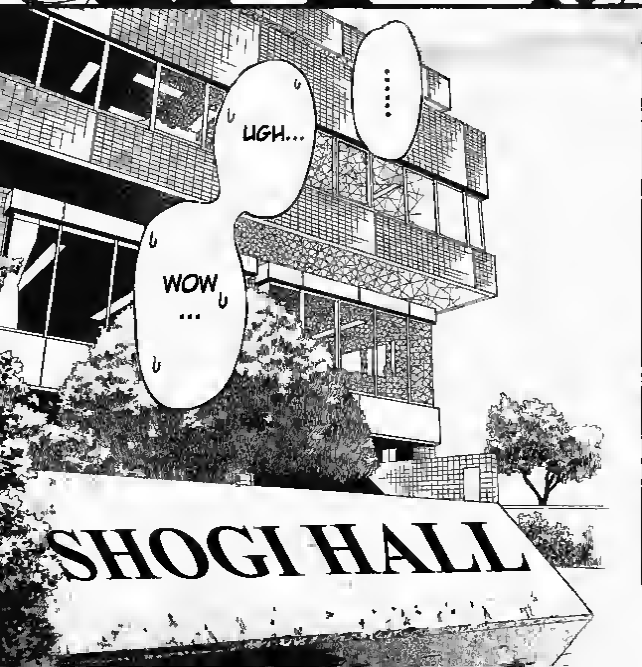
H-HE EATS CAKE WITH HIS HANDS?
W- WOW
slip
nom

HAVING THIS SERIOUS COMPETITION IN TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CLOTHES,
THEN BREAKING FOR A "SNACK"
ALL WHILE BEING BROADCAST ON NATIONAL TV.
THAT ASIDE, THIS IS A STRANGE SCENE.
AND HE NEVER LOOKED AWAY FROM THE GAME ONCE!
WOW, HASN'T HE EATEN THREE WHOLE CAKES AT THIS POINT?
It's inhuman!
THIS GUYS SOME KIND OF BOTTOMLES PIT!

rummage
plop plop
tumble
BUT,
AS FOR SOYA...
slip
WELL OUT OF ALL THE ORGANS IN THE BODY, THE BRAIN IS THE MOST "CANNIBALISTIC" IN TERMS OF ROBBING NUTRIENTS FROM THE REST.
AND SUGAR IS THE NUMBER ONE NUTRIENT IT NEEDS TO WORK.
IF ANYTHING,
IT'S TO ALLOW THEIR BRAINS TO RUN AT FULL CAPACITY WHILE PLAYING

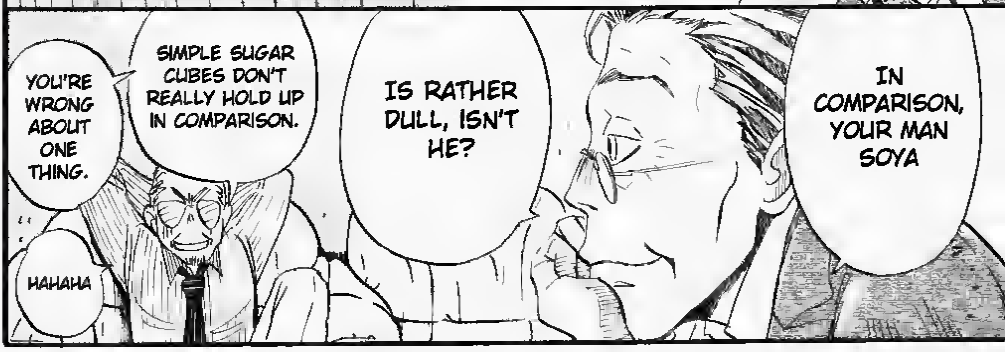


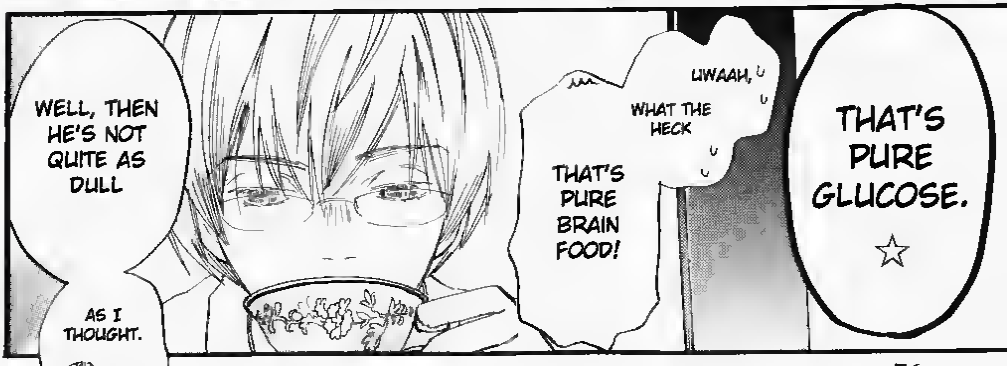

HOW MANY SUGAR CUBES WAS THAT?!
THAT'S ONE HECK OF A BRAIN ENERGY SUPPLIMENT!
AND 3 LEMON WEDGES ON TOP OF THAT?
THAT MUCH CITRIC ACID AND GLUCOSE ?!
THAT'S TOO DIRECT!!


SHOGI HALL
WOW...
UGH...
.....

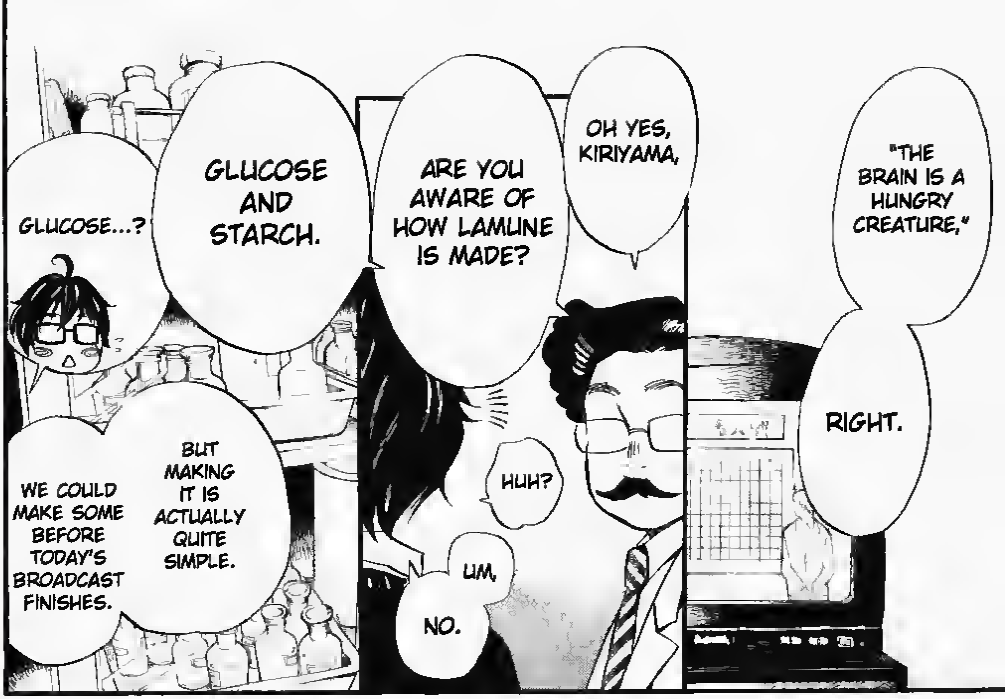
THAT'S A TITLE MATCH FOR YOU!
THESE MEN ARE MONSTERS (IN VARIOUS DEFINITIONS OF THE WORD)!
Wow! Yeah!
Aaah!
Cake, huh? That sounds good
That's what you focus on?!

THREE WHOLE CAKES,
THAT LITTLE KUMA HAS AN APPETITE.
munch munch
I CAN ALREADY TELL THIS MATCH IS GOING TO DEVELOP A NICKNAME
SOMETHING LIKE "SNACKTIME BATTLE," I'M SURE
WITH ALL THIS SNACKING.
BUT I CAN'T BE TOO UPSET WITH KUMA.
I ENJOY A GOOD BOTTLE OF SWEET POTATO SOUCHU WITH CAKE EVERY NOW AND AGAIN.
UGH, THAT GOES WE'LL TOGETHER?
I CAN'T IMAGINE IT DOES.


IN COMPARISON, YOUR MAN SOYA
IS RATHER DULL, ISN'T HE?
SIMPLE SUGAR CUBES DON'T REALLY HOLD UP IN COMPARISON.
YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT ONE THING.
HAHAHA


THAT'S PURE GLUCOSE.
☆
UWAAH,
WHAT THE HECK
THAT'S PURE BRAIN FOOD!
WELL, THEN HE'S NOT QUITE AS DULL
AS I THOUGHT.
hahaha

KYOTO,
OH YES
THE SHISHIOU TITLE MATCH
WITH SHIMADA.
HE HAD EATEN ALL OF THE ONES HE GOT HIMSELF AND ASKED ME TO GET HIM MORE.
SOYA ASKED ME TO GET THOSE FOR HIM
WHILE WE WERE IN KYOTO
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT THEY'RE CALLED BUT
THEY'RE THOSE LITTLE SOFT SQUARE THINGS THAT GET HARD AS YOU CHEW, YOU GET THEM AT CONVENIENCE STORES OR PHARMACIES.
AREN'T YOU WELL INFORMED.
AND WALKED OUT WITH FOUR WINS, NO LOSSES.
HE USED HIS FULL STRENGTH AND WIT,
HE HELD SHIMADA COMPLETELY AT BAY.
HUH?
HE NEEDS SOMEONE WHO CAN KEEP UP WITH HIM,


"THE BRAIN IS A HUNGRY CREATURE,"
RIGHT.
OH YES, KIRIYAMA,
ARE YOU AWARE OF HOW LAMUNE IS MADE?
HUH?
UM, NO.
GLUCOSE AND STARCH.
GLUCOSE...?
BUT MAKING IT IS ACTUALLY QUITE SIMPLE.
WE COULD MAKE SOME BEFORE TODAY'S BROADCAST FINISHES.

I SHOULD HAVE ALL THE INGREDIENTS STILL...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS AGAIN?
LEFTOVER FROM LAST YEAR'S BAZAAR TASTE TEST STATION.
SERIOUSLY, NATTOU, BARLEY TEA, MAKING YOUR OWN RICE...
WHY DO ALL OF YOUR EXPERIMENTS END UP GOING IN SOMEONE'S MOUTH?
HAHAHA, SCIENCE, IT ALL COMES BACK TO SCIENCE.
FIRST
WE RUN THE GLUCOSE THROUGH A FINE MESH SIEVE.
shake shake
Pat Pat

yes yes
uh huh
SHOULDN'T THERE BE MORE QUINCE VINEGAR?
NEXT WE MIX TOGETHER
AND ADD A LITTLE HEAT.
klatta klatta
IT'S SUPER SOUR.
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NOT MUCH,
YOU MAY NOT THINK THIS MUCH OF ANYTHING WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE BUT THIS QUINCE VINEGAR WILL GIVE IT MORE THAN ENOUGH SOURNESS TO PUCKER YOUR LIPS.
itty bitty
Quince vinegar can also relieve fatigue.
WE MIX POTATO STARCH AND WATER IN A BEAKER.

WHAT?
ALREADY?!
HERE IT'S DONE.
ROLL IT OUT BY HAND SQUEEZING IT TIGHT!
NEXT, WE TAKE THE GLUCOSE AND MIX IT LITTLE BY LITTLE.
gush gush gush
Glucose
NEXT YOU JUST CUT IT INTO LITTLE PIECES.
chop chop
THEN JUST ALLOW IT TO DRY NATURALLY AND YOU'RE DONE.
IT'S NOT QUITE HARD YET,
BUT PLEASE, HELP YOURSELVES.

*Quince Vinegar

OH WOW
IT REALLY TASTES LIKE LAMUNE.
THAT'S AMAZING!! I NEVER KNEW YOU COULD MAKE LAMUNE LIKE THAT!
I SEE YOU'RE SURPRISED WITH THE RESULTS
THEN I CAN CALL THIS EXPERIMENT A SUCCESS THEN.
Ha Ha Ha
Yeah!
nom
WELL THEN, NEXT SHALL WE MAKE A BATCH WITH SOME BAKING SODA?
BAKING SODA?
IT'S THE SODIUM BICARBONATE.
YOU CAN COMBINE A TAB WITH WATER AND IT FIZZES LIKE COLA.
CAN I MAKE IT?
PLEASE DO.
VERY WELL KIRIYAMA,
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR BEGINNING TO GRASP THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE.
Hahaha
THIS IS SCIENCE?
OF COURSE.
What are you saying?

YOU'RE MORE AWKWARD IN THIS SITUATION THAN I THOUGHT YOU'D BE.
HEY KIRIYAMA,
snicker
NOW MIX IT UP.
YES, LIKE THAT.
UM...
LIKE THIS MUCH?
YES YES,
OH!
BE CAREFUL NOT TO ADD TO MUCH WATER!
YOU SURE?
I-I DID!
WHEN YOU STIR WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND DO IT IN A SQUARE PATTERN, AND A TRIANGLE WITH YOUR LEFT,
OR DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOUR LEFT AND RIGHT ARMS HAVE THE SAME STRENGTH?
COME ON KIRIYAMA, ARE YOU A LITTLE KID OR SOMETHING?
snrrk hahaha
Haha ha
HUH?
WHAT?
THERE WAS TOO MUCH WATER?
YOU CAN RESTORE IT.
IT'S ALRIGHT KIRIYAMA, IF YOU ADD MORE GLUCOSE,
HUH?
WHAT IS
THIS...?
THERE,
NOW MIX IT BY HAND.

I JOINED
AN AFTER SCHOOL CLUB...
I'M TALKING
LAUGHING
IN SCHOOL...
NOW,
LET'S EAT SOME.
.....
KIRIYAMA.

A WEIGHT IS LIFTING OFF MY CHEST

WITHOUT REALIZING IT
IT FELT LIKE SOMETHING WAS COMING FROM MY EYES,
IT FELT LIKE I WOULD DIE TRYING TO HOLD IT BACK.
UM,
CAN I
TAKE SOME OF THESE HOME WITH ME?
I TOOK THE REMAINING PIECES,
PUT THEM IN A MAKESHIFT WRAPPER MADE OF NOTE PAPER IN MY BAG,
I THOUGHT HINA AND MOMO
WOULD BE HAPPY TO RECIEVE THEM.

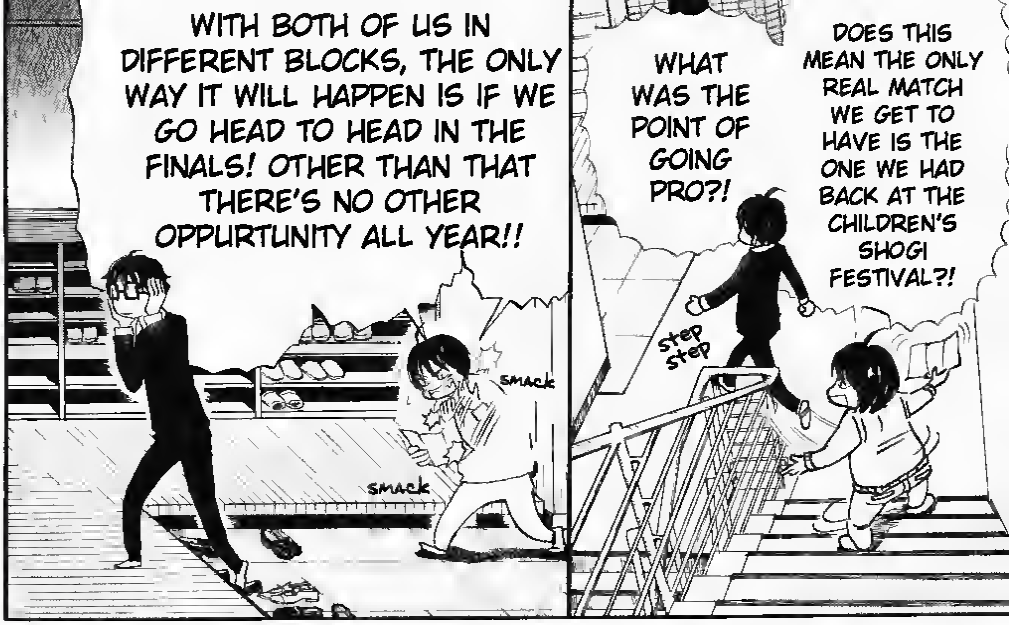
I'LL GO SEE THEM,
I'LL CROSS THE BRIDGE
THEN,
I'LL TEACH THEM HOW TO MAKE LAMUNE,
I'LL TELL THEM ALL ABOUT THE CLUB, MY SENIOR NOGUCHI, AND ABOUT MY PROFESSOR.
I WANT TO SHARE EVERYTHING WITH THEM.
OH, IT'S REI!
COME IN!
IT'S REI!
Chapter 47 END

Chapter 48

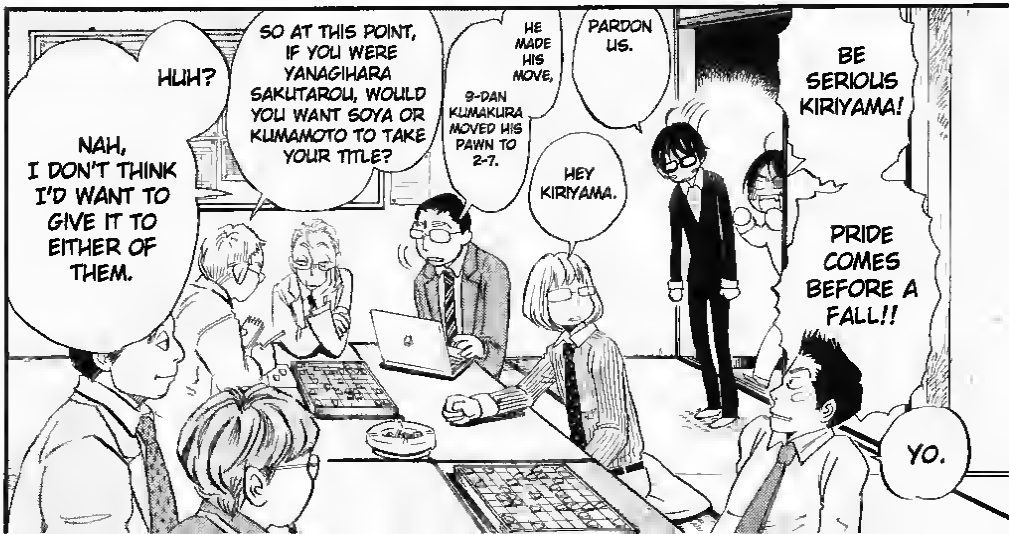
Confusion

WHY?!
I CAN'T COMPREHEND THIS!
WITH THE THOUGHT OF GETTING TO FACE YOU SUPPORTING ME IN GETTING THIS FAR,
AFTER FINALLY MAING IT INTO THE SAME C-1 LEAGUE AS YOU...
Graaaaa
crumple
Shogi Tournament
WHY DOES IT CONTINUE TO REFUSE TO BE!
Shogi Hall

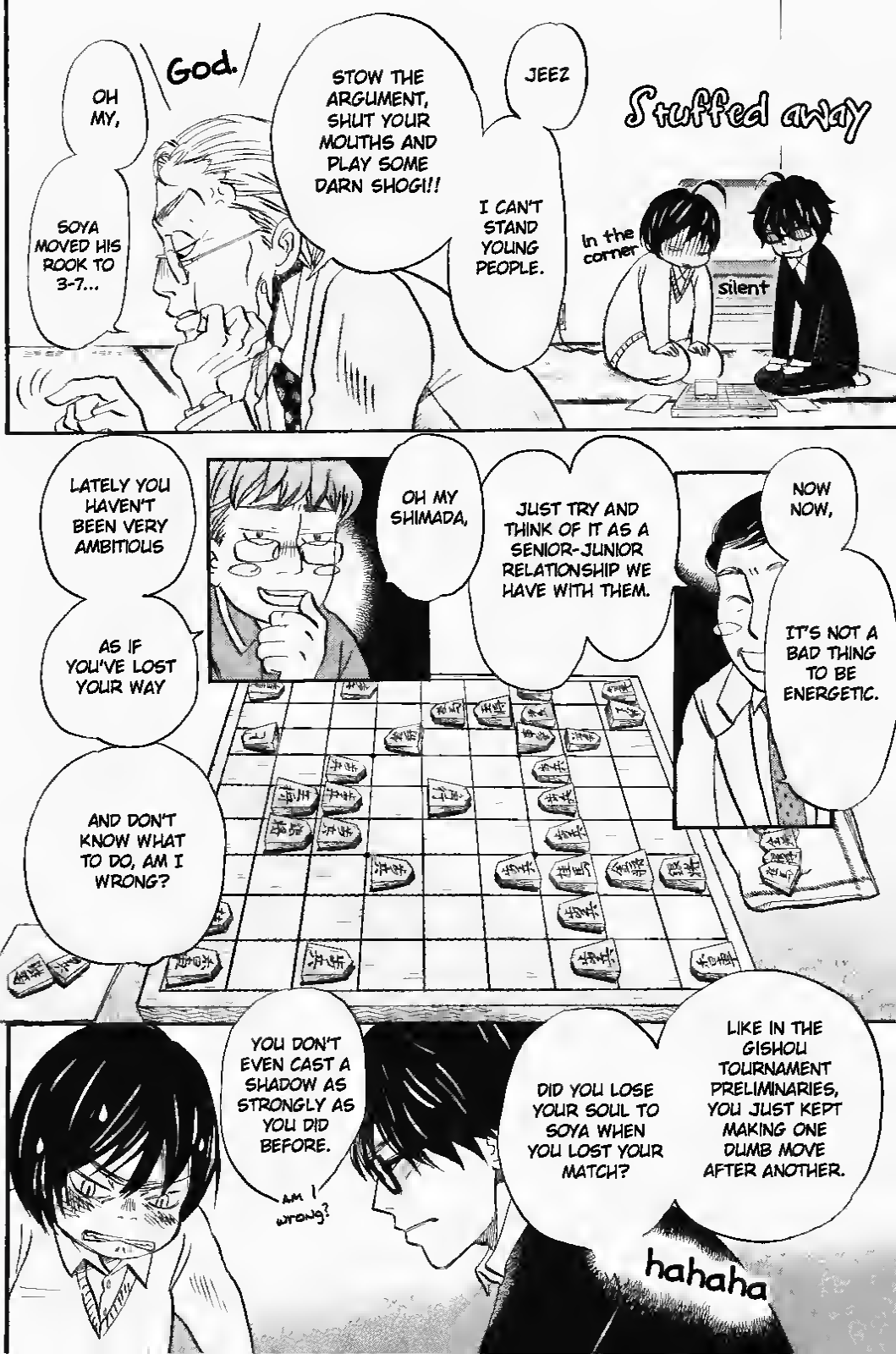
ker-zap
COME ON...
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS KIRIYAMA?!
AAH,
SO LOUD...
WHY ME...


WITH BOTH OF US IN DIFFERENT BLOCKS, THE ONLY WAY IT WILL HAPPEN IS IF WE GO HEAD TO HEAD IN THE FINALS! OTHER THAN THAT THERE'S NO OTHER OPPURTUNITY ALL YEAR!!
smack
smack
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF GOING PRO?!
DOES THIS MEAN THE ONLY REAL MATCH WE GET TO HAVE IS THE ONE WE HAD BACK AT THE CHILDREN'S SHOGI FESTIVAL?!
step step

YUP, BEST GAME.
NEWBIE OR NOT, YOU'VE GOT TO BRING YOUR BEST GAME!!
YOU'RE NOT THINKING "THEY'RE ALSO NEWCOMERS SO I'LL TAKE IT EASY," ARE YOU?
I'M SURE IT'S NOT THE CASE, BUT
tap tap tap
tap tap tap
thump thump
thump thump


HUH?
NAH, I DON'T THINK I'D WANT TO GIVE IT TO EITHER OF THEM.
SO AT THIS POINT, IF YOU WERE YANAGIHARA SAKUTAROU, WOULD YOU WANT SOYA OR KUMAMOTO TO TAKE YOUR TITLE?
9-DAN KUMAKURA MOVED HIS PAWN TO 2-7.
HE MADE HIS MOVE,
HEY KIRIYAMA.
PARDON US.
BE SERIOUS KIRIYAMA!
PRIDE COMES BEFORE A FALL!!
YO.

"EVERYTHING! WHO WAS IT WHO PROMISED THEY'D MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO BECOMING A TITLE HOLDER AT THEIR DEBUT AS A MIDDLE SCHOOLER? OH YEAH, IT WAS YOU!"
"NO YOU'RE ALREADY FULL OF YOURSELF! IN FACT YOU MIGHT BE TOO FAR GONE FOR SAVING!"
REI: "WHAT ARE YOU BASING THAT OFF OF?"
MR. YANAGI-SAWA...
THEN HOW ABOUT "THE LAST GAME OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES HAS SHOWN SOME FIERCE FIGHTING"
OH? OKAY..
I CAN'T WRITE THAT!
IF I PUT THAT ON THE NET, THEY'LL TEAR US APART!
IT'S DIFFICULT TO TELL WHO HAS THE UPPER HAND.
TO PUT THIS GAME IN A SINGLE WORD
IT WOULD BE "CHAOS"
AH, SO LOUD.
SMITH
DO ME A FAVOR.
WOULD YOU THROW THOSE TWO OUT FOR A BIT?
☆
YOU GOT IT!
Yes sir!
RIGHT AWAY!
EEP
With gusto!
What? even me?
Ba-dum!


God.
OH MY,
SOYA MOVED HIS ROOK TO 3-7...
STOW THE ARGUMENT, SHUT YOUR MOUTHS AND PLAY SOME DARN SHOGI!!
JEEZ
I CAN'T STAND YOUNG PEOPLE.
Stuffed away
In the corner
silent
LATELY YOU HAVEN'T BEEN VERY AMBITIOUS
AS IF YOU'VE LOST YOUR WAY
AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, AM I WRONG?
OH MY SHIMADA,
JUST TRY AND THINK OF IT AS A SENIOR-JUNIOR RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH THEM.
NOW NOW,
IT'S NOT A BAD THING TO BE ENERGETIC.
YOU DON'T EVEN CAST A SHADOW AS STRONGLY AS YOU DID BEFORE.
AM I wrong?
DID YOU LOSE YOUR SOUL TO SOYA WHEN YOU LOST YOUR MATCH?
LIKE IN THE GISHOU TOURNAMENT PRELIMINARIES, YOU JUST KEPT MAKING ONE DUMB MOVE AFTER ANOTHER.
hahaha

HMPH
MUST BE NICE TO BE SO CAREFREE.
WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A TITLE MATCH OF YOUR OWN.
SLAM
GRRR
HEY!
COME ON NOW!
Shuuu!
YOUR SHADOW'S NOT THE ONLY THING THAT'S BEEN THINNING, HUH?
Hahaha
COME TO THINK OF IT,
SPEAKING OF THINNING SHADOWS,
ha haha
Suish
AS A PROFESSIONAL SHOGI PLAYER, SPEND LESS TIME WORRYING ABOUT WHAT'S ON SOMEONE ELSE'S HEAD,
THE TITLE FIGHT MAY COME TO AN END WITHOUT YOU EVEN GETTING TO PLAY.
WORRY MORE ABOUT THE FAULTS IN YOUR OWN LIFE.
GOTOU...

GOTOU,
YOU SAID TOO MUCH.
OH
KUMAKURA WENT WITH HIS SILVER TO 3-6
ah no, I thought this would happen...
POP
THAT'S ANOTHER GREAT MOVE.
DAMN IT...
JUST DROP IT,
LET'S GO.
slide
.....
SEE? YOU MADE THEM LEAVE.
WHO CARES,
MAYBE THEY WENT TO THE JOHN?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS PROJECT THAT ATTITUDE?
BEING AROUND YOU IS LIKE WALKING INTO A FREEZER.
You're such a...
jeez
BUT THATS NATUAL, AFTER ALL.
CLACK
THOSE GUYS WHO GOT BLOWN OFF FOR THE TITLE MATCH
HAD THEIR PRIDE DESTROYED IN ONE BLOW.

"AT THIS RATE I'M DONE FOR"
THEY THINK WHILE RECOUNTING THE NUMBERS OF VICTORIES AND LOSSES THEY'VE HAD.
AND THEN
BROKEN TO PIECES ALL AT ONCE.
THEY TRY TO PICK THEMSELVES BACK UP AND PUT THEMSELVES BACK
AND START ALL OVER.
EVERYONE'S LIKE THAT.
WELL
I SAY "EVERY ONE"
I MEAN "EVERYONE WHO'S EXPERIENCED IT"
WHEN I SAY THAT.
HM
WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT SHIMADA. LET HIM BE.
HE'LL START WINNING AGAIN IF HE WANTS TO.
I'M JUST,

CANT STAND SEEING SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER STEPPED IN THE RING THEMSELVES
JEERING SOMEONE WHO'S DONE THE DEED.
IT MAKES ME WANT TO VOMIT.
YOU KNOW SOMETHING GOTOU,
YOU REMIND ME OF A KNIFE.
ANYONE WHO TOUCHES YOU IS GONNA GET HURT.
JEEZ, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO JAGGED.
Be an adult for crying out loud!!
I've never had a title match either.
Sorry
Ah jeez...
SO?
HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT? IS THIS SOYA'S SIDE?
FOR CRYING OUT-
DO YOU LISTEN WHEN PEOPLE TALK TO YOU?
THERE'S ONE HOUR LEFT.
.....
HUH.

I'M SCARED
REI
STAY AWAY...
FROM MY SISTER
YOU'RE MARRIED, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN TREASURE YOUR OWN FAMILY,
YOU'RE TRASH!

crack
"TRASH," AM I?
MOREOVER, WHAT'S THIS "CAN'T PERMIT" NONSENSE?
HMM?
WELL?
WHO ARE YOU?
GOD?
YOU SHOULD DO THIS,
YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
STOMP
WHO DECIDED ALL THAT? YOU?
PAH.

PEOPLE ARE CONFUSED CREATURES.
FOR ME
I DON'T KNOW.
ARE LIVING IN THE SAME BODY.
AND THE MAN TORMENTING MY SISTER
THE MAN WHO STOOD UP FOR SHIMADA
OR...
NEXT
HE'LL COME WITH THE BISHOP ON 8-3 MOST LIKELY.
NEXT...
SHOULD I HATE HIM?
WHAT NOW?
SOYA MOVED HIS PAWN TO 3-9
DO YOU THINK HE'LL MAKE IT?
OH, HE MOVED
RRR
RRR...

HUH? LEAVING SO SOON GOTOU?
I HAVE A GAME TOMORROW.
clap

DON'T MAKE KOUDA
CRY SO MUCH, OKAY?
sigh

sip

WHY DO I ALWAYS FIND YOU IN AN INTIMIDATING POSE?
INTIMI-DATING?
YOU SAYING I LOOK LIKE AN ORGE OR SOMETHING?
OH, SO YOU REALIZED IT?

WHAT'S UP, KIRIYAMA?
.....
YOU'VE GOT "BUT WHY" WRITTEN ON YOUR FACE.
NO,
OR SHOULD I TAKE KYOUKO'S SIDE?
IT'S NOTHING.
I'VE THOUGHT OF CALLING, BUT...
WE LAST MET IN MARCH

IT MAY APPEAR SIMPLE AT A GLANCE,
BUT LOOKING CLOSELY, YOU CAN SEE IT'S ACTUALLY VERY TANGLED AND COMLICATED.
TO PUT IT IN A SINGLE WORD,
AND THEN...
WHAT WOULD I TALK ABOUT?
I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF SOMETHING WHEN SHE'S FAR AWAY, WHEN SHE'S CLOSE...
WHEN I REACH FOR THE PHONE MY HAND STOPS.
IT'S CHAOS.
YANAGIZAWA MUTTERED SOMETHING THAT PUT IT ALL TOGETHER.
Chapter 48 END

THE 69TH SHOGI CHAMPION TOURNAMENT, ROUND 7 SECOND DAY.
THIS TOURNAMENT HAS GONE THE FULL SET OF GAMES, AND AFTER FIERCE FIGHTING, HERE WE ARE AT THE FINAL GAME.
TODAY, IT WILL FINALLY BE DECIDED.
Chapter 49
Kumakura
Ajisai Bridge

THE BREAK FOR DINNER HAS COMPLETED, AND NOW BOTH PARTIES HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME LEFT.
BOTH PLAYERS LOOK COMPOSED.
WILL THIS BECOME THE 5TH WIN GRAND MASTER SOYA'S OBTAINED FOR THIS TITLE?
OR WILL 4 BE ALL HE GETS,
AND CHALLENGER 9-DAN KUMAKURA BECOMES OUR NEW CHAMPION?

OH
HERE WE GO. SOYA MAKES HIS MOVE.
BISHOP TO 4-4.
HOW WILL THIS ONE TURN OUT?
HMM
CAN YOU PROVIDE AN EXPLAINATI ON TSUJII?
THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED MOVE...
slip
9-dan Tsujii on Location on Commentary Duty at the Big Board

THERE'S NO REAL DEEP MEANING BEHIND IT...
THIS KIND OF FEELS LIKE A "THROW AWAY MOVE"
WHAT'S HE THINKING WITH THAT MOVE?
HE DIDN'T PROMOTE HIS BISHOP ON 3-7
AND 3-7 ISN'T A DRAGON EITHER...
THIS BATTLE HAS BEEN A FREE-FOR-ALL,
SO THIS MOVE HAS A MEANING OF "THERE, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?"
AT LEAST IT COULD.
SOYA HIMSELF KNOWS THAT HIS MOVE WILL BRING DOUBT AND UNCERTAINTY TO THOSE WHO SEE IT...
I THINK.
Yes Yes
INDEED.
KUMAKURA IS AT THE LEVEL WHERE HE CAN SEE THIS IS A MOVE WITHOUT MOTIVE.
HMM?
HOLD ON A SECOND
...ISN'T THIS...?
I'M SURE HIS NEXT MOVE WILL COME QUICKLY.
Bang
sparkle
pose
THEN
COULD THAT MEAN KUMAKURA HAS THE ADVANTAGE NOW?
Wow!

I LOSE.
HUH?!
H-HE RESIGNED?!
9-DAN KUMAKURA HAS GIVEN UP!
HEY GET THE CAMERA!
Hello? He gave up!!
KUMAKURA GIVES UP!!
THE WITNESSES ARENT EVEN IN THERE!
GRAND MASTER SOYA RETAINS THE TITLE!!
G-
WH- HOLD ON! THIS IS TOO SUDDEN!!
GAVE UP?!
I'M TELLING YOU!
He lost.
Where are the witnesses?
Waaah
Stomp stomp
HE GAVE UP! PLEASE HURRY!!
WHY KUMAKURA?
ISN'T IT TOO SOON FOR THAT?
THERE ARE STILL MOVES TO MAKE! YOU'RE AT THE ADVANTAGE HERE!
ALL OF A SUDDEN WITH THE BOARD LIKE THIS?
WHAT?
HE CONCEDED?
Shogi Hall

NO, HE...
CAN TELL WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
IN EXACTLY 17 MOVES FROM NOW.
.....
.....
.....
KING TO 1-5
NO ONE REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED,
BUT PLAYING IT, IT TURNED OUT TO BE TRUE!!
IT'S TRUE
ANY MOVES MADE AGAINST SOYA AT THIS POINT
1-4 PAWN THEN 1-6 KING
SOYA
EXCELLENT WORK, MY BOY.
WERE TOTALLY INEFFECTIVE!!

MY TRAINING WAS NOT SUFFICIENT.
THAT WAS ALL HE WOULD SAY.
HE SAID HE WOULD GO BACK TO TEMPER HIMSELF IN THIS YEARS RANKING BATTLES,
SO HE COULD ONCE AGAIN RETURN TO THIS SEAT.
CONFIDENCE...?
THAT HE CAN WALK THROUGH THE A RANK DEN OF MONSTERS
AND PICK HIMSELF UP AND START OVER FROM THE BEGINNING AS MANY TIMES AS HE HAVE TO.
NEXT YEAR
HE'LL BE SITTING IN THE SAME SPOT...
NO WAY, HE'S TOO COOL!
HOW CAN COMEONE POSSIBLY BE THIS COOL AND COMPOSED
AFTER LOSING THE FREE FOR ALL MATCH IN A FULL SET TITLE FIGHT?
I want to be like you!
Kumakura, I've got goosebumps!
Ah...
Show off!
Tremble

THANKS FOR WAITING!
HERE
THERE'S FACE CREAM, LOTION,
AND I THREW IN THE NEW MOISTURIZING CREAM AS WELL.
YEAH.
THIS SHOULD BE MORE THAN ENOUGH
SORRY.
I CAN'T STOP SNEEZING WHEN I GO INTO PLACES LIKE THAT.
LATER,
YOU REALLY HELPED OUT.
THIS IS ALL YOU WANTED ME FOR?

.....
I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU NEXT TIME.
LATER.
CENTRAL HOSPITAL.
SLAM
CENTRAL HOSPITAL
HEY
I'M HERE
MISAKO.

LONESOME

ping
SLIDE
SLAM
VRRRRM...

!?
YOU'RE LATE!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
HERE, I BROUGHT YOU YOUR STUFF LIKE YOU ASKED.
Cleaning
白泉
Pout
WHATEVER, GET UP.
I'LL CALL YOU A TAXI.
NO, I'M STAYING WITH YOU!
Cleaning Bill
THIS IS A TON OF DIRTY CLOTHES. DO YOU EVER WASH?
BUT THAT ASIDE,
DO I EVE-
THAT'S MY WALLET!!

Blush
NO WAY
IF YOU COME IN HERE, THEN I'M POSITIVE YOU'LL TRY AND POUNCE ON ME.
P-POUNCE?
I-
I WOULD NEVER!
gulp
※98%Accurate
WHATEVER, FINE!
I'LL GO HOME! LOOK, I'M GOING!!
WILL YOU AT LEAST TAKE ME TO THE TAXI STOP?
YEAH SURE.
OH, SHOULDN'T YOU PUT YOUR DRY CLEANING INSIDE FIRST?
HMM? YEAH I GUESS.
THANKS.
CREAK
AAAGH!
Waaah
PING
Nyaha
DAMN IT...
sigh

ping
flush
FINE, WHATEVER
YOU'RE TOO OBNOXIOUS.
COME HERE
COZY
THAT'S FINE
LETS SLEEP.
PLEASE GO HOME,
I'M TIRED.
I'LL JUST BE RIGHT HERE.
sigh
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, I'M HERE CAUSE YOU ASKED ME TO BE.
SO YOU'RE LETTING ME IN.
WHAT?!
H-
HOLD ON A MINUTE DAMNIT!
UNTIE ME! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!
HUH?!
GOOD NIGHT.
ROLL
HEY
WAIT!
STRAIN
W-
WHAT'S THIS FOR?!

Ah!
Grasp
ROLL
SNORING? ARE YOU SLEEPING ?!
I'M STILL WEARING MAKEUP!
IF I DON'T TAKE THIS OFF,
HEY!
ZZZ...
Snrrr...
Snrr....
Zzz...
zzz...

THAT FACE...
.....
GOD...
HE PROBABLY HADN'T SLEPT THIS SOUNDLY IN A LONG TIME.
WERE DARK CIRCLES
UNDER HIS EYES
Zzz...
THE NEXT DAY
IF THEY COULD SEE YOU LIKE THIS...
YOU IDIOT
NO ONE WOULD BE FRIGHTENED OF YOU

LEAVING HAKONE BEHIND HIM.
THE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, 9-DAN KUMAKURA TOOK THE EXPRESS
EXCUSE ME, CHAIRMAN, A MOMENT PLEASE?
HM? WHAT IS IT?
!!
GRK!

KU... MA... KU... RA!!!
OUR HOUSE-KEEPING CREW CAME TO KUMAKURA'S ROOM
AND FOUND IT IN THIS STATE..
I'm at a loss for words
CRUMBLE
Drop
THAT SON OF A BITCH!!
AH HA HA
THIS IS NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT!!
REALLY?
KNOCKED THE WHOLE WALL IN?
NOT BAD KUMAKURA, HAHAHA.
OF COURSE HE'S PAYING ME BACK
WITH INTEREST!
HE'S IN FOR A HEAP OF PENALTIES!

DURING THAT RED-HOT DEPARTMENT STORE EVENT THIS SUMMER,
I'M GOING TO MAKE HIM SIT SQUISHED IN THE BACK CORNER!
BUT MAN,
KNOCKING A WALL DOWN BECAUSE HE LOST,
Haha!
THAT KUMA...
I GET IT.
IT DRIVES YOU CRAZY.
THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE WOULDN'T BE UPSET.
Chapter 19 END